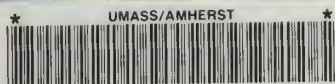
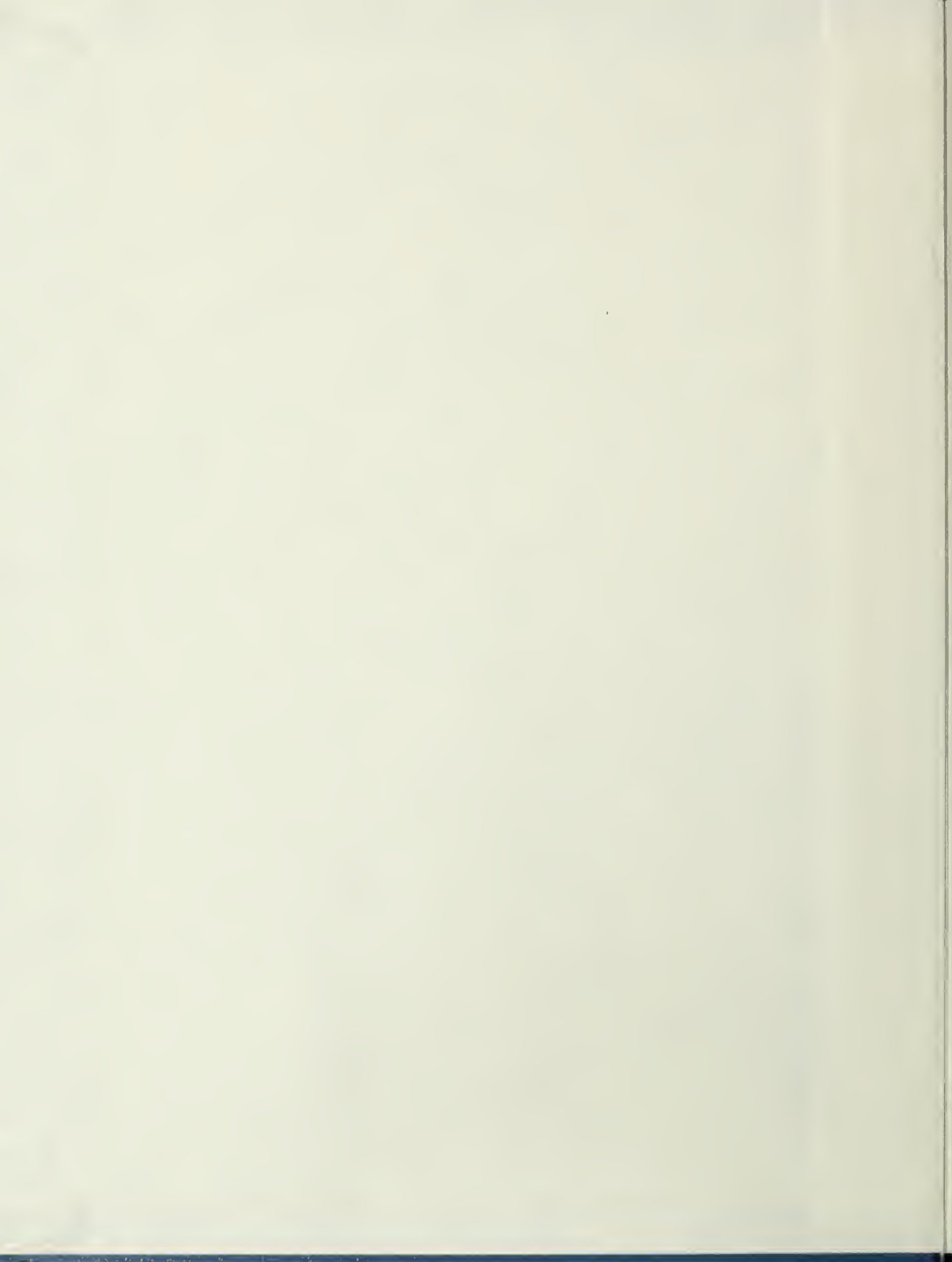


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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH

1975 - 1976

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MAY, 1977

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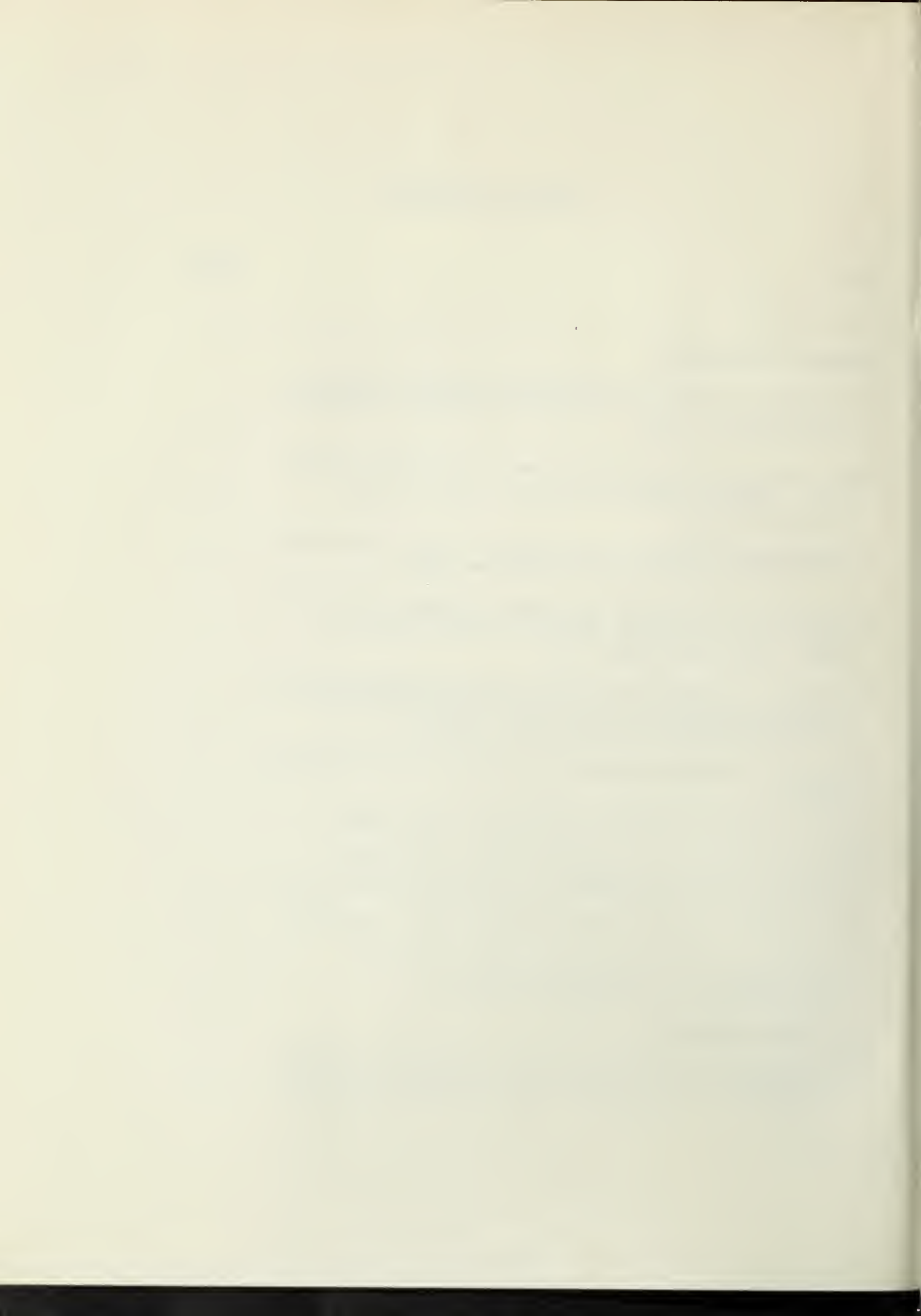


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Copies of the studies summarized in this report may be obtained
by writing to:

Research Division
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INTRODUCTION

In 1972, the Massachusetts Department of Correction created a series of community-based correctional programs to facilitate the re-entry of offenders into the community after years of total confinement in an institution. Through the provisions of the Correctional Reform Act (Chapter 777), programs such as Home Furloughs, Work Release Programs, Educational-Release Programs, and residential half-way Houses and Pre-Release Centers were put into operation.

Although it was not until 1972 that the gradual release process became an important part of the rehabilitative effort in Massachusetts it was not the first contact that the Department of Correction had had with these types of programs. For instance, in 1952, Forestry Camps were authorized to be established by the Massachusetts State Legislature as minimum security facilities. Three such camps were instituted in State Forest Reservations near Monroe, Plymouth and Warwick, giving the men assigned to these camps a feeling of freedom that could not exist in traditional incarceration. In 1967, the Day Work program at MCI-Concord provided another alternative to total imprisonment by allowing certain inmates to work during the day outside of the correctional facility while living in a residence also located outside the institutional walls. These programs were the first step in easing the transition from total incarceration to freedom (through parole or discharge).

The establishment of the new programs in 1972 represented a further effort towards successful reintegration into the community, which would hopefully reduce recidivism rates. At the same time, a serious effort was begun to conduct an extensive evaluation of each new program. The main objective of these research studies was to ascertain whether these programs are effective in terms of rehabilitation as well as to provide a feedback mechanism for program administrators. Abstracts from the most recent of these program evaluation efforts (completed in 1975 and 1976) are presented in the following pages. Included in this collection are studies of Massachusetts half-way houses and pre-release centers, an assessment of the furlough program, and an overview of the coeducational facility at Framingham.

Another evaluative goal of the Department of Correction has been the analysis of recidivism among individuals released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions. Abstracts from these reports are also included in this document, as well as a series of special studies such as an evaluation of the Norfolk Fellowship, and descriptive studies of Vietnam veterans and major violators.

A final objective of these program evaluations may be seen in their usefulness in interpreting yearly statistical reports. A complete list and description of these annual reports is contained in the final section of this collection of abstracts.



PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG RESIDENTS RELEASED
FROM BOSTON STATE AND SHIRLEY PRE-RELEASE CENTERS DURING
1972 - 1973
AUGUST 1975 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

The present study is an attempt to make a contribution to the literature concerning the effectiveness of community based pre-release programs in achieving the goal of reducing the repeated criminal behavior of individuals who have experienced prison incarceration. For this purpose, a research evaluation of two experimental pre-release correctional programs operated in the state of Massachusetts was carried out.

The research evaluation resulted in two major findings. First, it was found that individuals who had completed the combined pre-release programs under study had significantly lower rates of recidivism than a control group of similar types of inmates who had not participated in a pre-release program; and a significantly lower actual recidivism rate than their derived expected recidivism rate. Secondly, a series of inmate types which seem to be disproportionately helped by pre-release program participation was tentatively identified.

Both findings are believed to be tentative findings pending the completion of further research, now currently in progress at the Massachusetts Department of Correction.

1974 CLIENT PROFILE MASSACHUSETTS HALFWAY HOUSES, INC.
(BROOKE HOUSE, TEMPORARY HOUSING, AND COOLIDGE HOUSE)
SEPTEMBER 1975
JOSEPH LANDOLFI

This report is the first stage of a three part overall evaluation of residents admitted to MHHI on a pre-release basis during 1974. Included in this report are: statistical data regarding the movement of population in and out of the pre-release programs, program termination data and a statistical breakdown of background characteristics of program participants.

During 1974 there were a total of 85 residents admitted to MHHI. For comparative purposes, the sample was divided into two groups: program completers and program non-completers. When the total sample was divided in this fashion, there were 57 program completions and 28 program non-completions.

A COMPARISON BETWEEN PRE-RELEASE PROGRAM
COMPLETERS AND NON-COMPLETERS AT MASSACHUSETTS
HALF-WAY HOUSES, INC. OCTOBER 1975
JOSEPH LANDOLFI

This report is the second stage of a three part evaluation of residents admitted to MHHI on a pre-release basis during 1974. Included in this report is an analysis of the pre-release sample in terms of the basic statistical difference between program completers and program non-completers.

Of the 85 individuals who participated in the MHHI pre-release programs, 57 (67%) successfully completed these programs. The remaining 28 residents (33%) were returned to their sending institutions as program non-completers. Commitment, background and criminal history variables were characterized according to a series of different splits for each completion sample.

A comparison of these variables between program completers and non-completers yielded five variables that produced statistically significant differences. In rank order of their significance, the variables were: Length of Time in Months Between Parole Eligibility and Date of Release, Number of Previous Adult Paroles, Marital Status, Length of Incarceration in Months and the Total Number of Prior House of Correction Incarcerations.

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG RESIDENTS
RELEASED FROM THE PRE-RELEASE CENTERS ADMINISTERED
BY MASSACHUSETTS HALF-WAY HOUSES, INC.
JUNE 1976 JOSEPH LANDOLFI

The present study is the third and final report concerning the MHHI programs. This report attempts to evaluate the effectiveness of the MHHI's community based pre-release programs in achieving the goal of reducing the repeated, criminal behavior of individuals who have experienced prison incarceration. This will be measured by rates of recidivism.

During the year 1974, a total of 41 residents were released from MHHI facilities to the free community on parole or discharge status. Of the 41 individuals who successfully completed the MHHI programs, only 4 recidivated. This resulted in an overall recidivism rate of 9.8%. When the actual rate of recidivism was compared to a computed expected rate of recidivism it was found that MHHI releasees had a considerably lower rate than expected.

A PROFILE OF CHARACTERISTICS DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN
PROGRAM COMPLETERS AND PROGRAM NON-COMPLETERS
IN MASSACHUSETTS' PRE-RELEASE CENTERS
NOVEMBER 1975 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

The research question addressed in the present study was whether there are certain characteristics that differ among inmates who complete their terms in a pre-release center and those who do not. A sample of 228 was chosen during the period November 1972 to January 1974 from individuals assigned to either of two pre-release centers: Boston State or Shirley. From a total of 111 individuals, 68% of the Boston sample (N=75) completed the program as opposed to 32% (N=36) who did not. From the Shirley sample (N=117), 53% (N=62) were program completers, and 47% (N=55) were program non-completers. The data used for the multivariate analysis was gathered from the central office files of the Department of Correction and the four categories of variables used were: criminal history, social background history of present offense, and history of present incarceration.

Results showed that Boston program non-completers were more likely to have had parole as a juvenile, to have been incarcerated as a juvenile, to have appeared in court for offenses against property or for drug offenses, to have more than 6 months until eligible for parole, to have worked relatively short periods at their previous most skilled position and less than one year at any job, to be younger than 30 when released from their pre-release program, and to have been in court five or more times. Non-completers at Shirley were generally characterized by having more prior appearances in court for offenses against persons, and more court appearances in general, parole as a juvenile, incarceration as a juvenile, and previous adult parole.

THE MASSACHUSETTS FURLOUGH PROGRAM: A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT
FEBRUARY 1976 FAYE FARRINGTON

This report represents an in-depth review of the furlough program in Massachusetts established by the Correctional Reform Act of 1972, including both legislative provisions of the Act as well as Departmental policy in implementing the furlough program. Since the inception of the program until October 1975 there were 344 cases who escaped from furlough, an escape rate of 1.5. Of these 344, one-fourth returned within 24 hours of their own free will, producing an adjusted escape rate of 1.1.

An analysis of individuals furloughed during the period November 1972 through April 1975 (N=3080) revealed that when compared to the total resident population, furloughed residents were more likely to be serving sentences for narcotics offenses, and minimum sentences of 1-9 years, and that younger offenders (16-19 years) and married residents were overrepresented in the furlough population. Underrepresented in this population were sex offenders, those serving indeterminate sentences, and single residents.

Escapees were found to be less likely to have been sentenced for sex offenses than those who successfully completed their furloughs, and were more likely to be incarcerated for unarmed robbery, larceny of a motor vehicle or escape from a correctional institution, more likely to be serving an indeterminate sentence or a minimum sentence of 10-14 years, to be black, and to be less than 30 years old. Those residents who experienced difficulty on furlough were found to have no statistically significant differences in terms of offense, minimum sentences, age, race, marital status, or military service.

MASSACHUSETTS FURLOUGH PROGRAM STATISTICAL FACT SHEET
MAY 1976 FAYE FARRINGTON

This report offers a statistical overview of the Massachusetts furlough program from its inception in November 1972 to April 1976. During this period a total of 28,477 furloughs were granted to 3,624 residents, or an average number of eight furloughs per resident.

Statistics reported on include: escape rate by furlough, voluntary returns, escapees at large, escape rate by individuals furloughed, trends in number of individuals furloughed, proportion of population participating in furlough program, lifer furlough statistics, proportion of lifer population participating in furlough programs, effect of furlough programs on recidivism, and court prosecution of escape cases.

CHARLOTTE HOUSE PRE-RELEASE CENTER FOR WOMEN:
PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS & A RECIDIVISM
FOLLOW-UP
OCTOBER 1976 JOSEPH LANDOLFI

Charlotte House, a half-way house for women, seeks to facilitate the re-entry of female offenders into the community by providing them with educational, vocational and counseling programs. In 1973, Charlotte House converted from post-release to pre-release status and housed women who had 12 months or less of their sentence left to serve.

The purpose of the present study was to determine the recidivism rate of those who completed the half-way house program, as well as any characteristics that differed among completers and non-completers. Results showed no statistically significant differences between the two groups, but this was due to the relatively small sample. Program completers had a recidivism rate of 13.6%, or 3 out of 22 individuals recidivated. This was considerably below the recidivism rates of the general release population which is particularly significant in view of the fact that residents at Charlotte House were high risk in comparison with the general prison population.

A STUDY OF A COEDUCATIONAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

1975

This study of the coeducational correctional program at MCI Framingham had three general goals.

These were:

- (1) to provide a general description of the facility and its programs;
- (2) to generate some exploratory data on inmates' perceptions of the social climate, the coeducational aspects, and selected programs of MCI-Framingham; and,
- (3) to examine the impact of the MCI-Framingham coeducational program on recidivism.

A review of the correctional literature was carried out with a general focus on studies of all-male and all-female institutions. From the literature a conceptual framework for the exploratory part of the study emerged. There was an emphasis on the general concept of the social climate of the correctional facility.

The description of MCI-Framingham was based upon interviews with selected staff members, as well as upon various written documents and reports on Framingham.

The exploratory part of the study, based upon interviews with fifty Framingham inmates, revealed the following results with respect to social climate:

- (1) Regarding communication and information flow, males tended to feel there was less communication between themselves and staff at Framingham than there was at their more structured former institution. However, at Framingham, inmates felt more able to participate in decision making concerning how the institution is run.
- (2) With regard to punishment and reward, both males and females felt staff will punish them for an infraction, but they see little chance that they would be punished by a fellow inmate. Males reported that they would be more likely to be punished by fellow inmates at their former institutions. Staff at Framingham was also seen as more apt to give praise to inmates for positive behavior.

- (3) Concerning inmates' relationship with the outside community, males tend to generally view their relationship as more positive than females. This could be due to the fact that males, exclusive of cadre, are primarily sent to Framingham for pre-release programs and tend to compare and contrast Framingham with their sending institutions.
- (4) Concerning inmate subculture, there seemed to be a much less rigid subculture among men than women. Men seemed less involved with each other, resulting in less peer pressure. Women tended to be more involved in a social system similar to those found in all-female institutions.
- (5) As far as sexual relationships between men and women, the general response was that there was no difference at Framingham from that which exists on the outside. Inmates were willing to openly acknowledge the presence of female homosexuality, but denied the existence of male homosexuality. The inmates' attitudes on sexual roles were rather traditional and stereotyped, with the exception of female homosexuals. Finally, the inmates reported that, in general, they did not expect the relationships formed in Framingham to last on the outside.

With respect to Framingham programs, inmate's perceptions of the furlough program and the work and education release programs were very positive; their perceptions of the cadre program were positive; and their perceptions of the counseling program were mixed. Also, it was clear that their general view of the coeducational correctional experience was an extremely positive one.

Recidivism Follow-up. The comparison between the expected recidivism rate (17.3%) and the actual recidivism rate (11.6%) revealed a substantial reduction in recidivism for the first 121 persons who were released from Framingham since it became a coeducational facility. The impact of the Framingham program on recidivism tended to be somewhat greater for women--from 19.6% (expected rate) to 12.8% (actual rate)--than it was for men--from 11.8% (expected rate) to 8.6% (actual rate).

An analysis of the relationship between background characteristics and recidivism produced some interesting findings. For example, none of the 14 men originally committed to Walpole were

recidivists, while 14% of the 21 men originally committed to Concord were recidivists. This may reflect a more careful screening of the Walpole commitments. On offense, the recidivism rate of property offenders (26%) was significantly higher than that of all other offenders (7%). Although this pattern is consistent with previous studies, the unusually large difference is noteworthy here. On race, black inmates, both female and male, had a considerably lower recidivism rate (8%) than that of whites (15%). Finally, unlike the findings of previous studies, the recidivism rate of those with histories of drug usage was no higher than that of individuals with no histories of drug usage.

In conclusion, there seems to be a clear convergence of the data in support of the coeducational correctional program at MCI-Framingham. Although some negative issues were raised in the course of this study, the overall findings of this research lead to the conclusion that the Framingham program is an effective and worthwhile correctional enterprise.

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Francis J. Carney, Jr., Ph.D., (Thesis Advisor)

April, 1975

THE EFFECTS OF A COEDUCATIONAL CORRECTIONAL
EXPERIENCE: A CONTINUED ANALYSIS
1976

This study was divided into three general areas of investigation--a recidivism analysis; an analysis of selected programs; and, a completion/non-completion analysis.

Recidivism Analysis

The comparison between the expected recidivism rate (30.6%) and the actual recidivism rate (15.4%) revealed a significant reduction in recidivism for the first 156 men and women who were released from Framingham since it became a coeducational facility. The impact of the Framingham program on recidivism was much more significant for women--from 33.9% (expected rate) to 15.2% actual rate--than it was for men--from 22.3% (expected rate) to 15.9% (actual rate). The Framingham program was also found to be especially effective in reducing recidivism for men and women who had histories of drug abuse.

Program Analyses

The present study also examined the effects of four programs offered at MCI-Framingham (Furlough Program, Work Release Program, Education Release Program, and Counseling Program) on the rate of recidivism. In general, all of the programs except the Counseling Program seemed to have a positive effect on the rate of recidivims. Only the results of the Work Release data were statistically significant, but the trends of the Furlough Program and the Education Release Program were in the positive direction. These results were consistent for both men and women. The trends indicated from the Counseling Program data were not expected, but the results were not significant and several possibilities explaining the results are presented.

Completion/Non-Completion Analysis

Completion/non-completion data identified a profile of distinguishing characteristics of those men who did not successfully complete the Framingham program. This profile could be used as an aid to decision making in the process of screening men for transfer to MCI-Framingham. Those individuals within these high risk groups can be scrutinized more carefully or programs may be tailored more specifically to the individual needs of men within this group. It is important to note that this profile should not be used in a mechanical way. It should be considered as an aid for judgement, not a substitute for judgement.

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1976

RECIDIVISM STUDIES

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG RESIDENTS
RELEASED FROM MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL
INSTITUTIONS DURING 1971
MAY 1975 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

A study of the 1971 releasees from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions revealed that 25% of the releasee population returned to prison within 1 year of their release. MCI's Framingham, Concord, and Walpole releasees had relatively high recidivism rates and MCI's Norfolk and Forestry Camps releasees had relatively low recidivism rates.

When the releasee population was analyzed in terms of the original institution of commitment, it was discovered that a particular pattern existed for Walpole commitments. Whereas the recidivism rate of individuals committed to MCI-Walpole and released directly from MCI-Walpole was 27%, the recidivism rate of individuals committed to MCI-Walpole but released from MCI-Norfolk was 17%; and the recidivism rate of MCI-Walpole commitments released from MCI-Forestry Camps was 13%. Thus, Walpole commitments who were transferred to and subsequently released from these other MCI's had a significantly lower recidivism rate than those who remained at Walpole until their release. This finding suggests a reintegrative or rehabilitative quality in the movement from maximum to medium and to minimum security levels, as opposed to an abrupt release directly from maximum security.

When considering the variation of releasee population by recidivism in terms of the offense they had been sentenced for, it was discovered that sex offenders had the lowest rate of recidivism. This was consistently the case for all releasing institutions. Offenses Against the Person was the category with the second lowest rates of recidivism. Offense categories with higher rates of recidivism included: Offenses Against Property and Drug Offenses.

Analysis of the Variable Age at Release with recidivism outcome revealed that the older an individual is at the time of release, the lesser the chance is that he will become a recidivist.

Relating the variable Length of Time Incarcerated on Present Offense to recidivism resulted in the finding that individuals incarcerated for a longer period of time had a lesser chance of recidivating.

However, since each of the three variables discussed above - Type of Offense, Age At Release and Length of Incarceration - are related to each other as well as recidivism, a further test of the interrelationship was carried out by a correlation analysis. This resulted in the finding that the relationship between Length of Incarceration and recidivism no longer held valid but, in fact, was merely associated with the other two variables.

As Part II of the analysis twenty-three categories delineating high and low recidivism risk groups were constructed.

As Part III of this report, the overall recidivism rates for the 1971 releasee population was compared with overall recidivism rates for individuals released in previous years. The last recidivism research conducted by the Department of Correction dealt with the 1966 releasee population.

The recidivism rates for the total 1971 population were considerably lower than the 1966 population. For the 1966 releasee population the overall recidivism rate was 30%, whereas for the 1971 releasee population it was 25%. This difference is statistically significant. It is interesting to note that when analyzing the differences by the specific releasing institution, the reduced recidivism can be attributed to Massachusetts Correctional Institutions Norfolk and Forestry Camps. The reductions at MCI's Walpole, Concord, and Framingham were not statistically significant.

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG RESIDENTS RELEASED FROM
MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1972
IN COMPARISON WITH RELEASES IN THE YEARS 1966 AND 1971
MARCH 1976 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

A study of releases from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during the year 1972 revealed that 22% of the releasee population returned to prison within one year of the date of their release. Analyses reveal the following important findings:

- (1) The recidivism rate for individuals released in the year 1972 was significantly below the recidivism rate for releases in previous years.
- (2) Higher rates of recidivism occurred for releases directly from maximum security institutions than for releases from medium and minimum security institutions.
- (3) While there was an unusually large increase in the number of individuals released from MCI-Concord in the year 1972, the recidivism rate for MCI-Concord actually dropped. It was concluded, therefore, that the increased numbers of individuals paroled and discharged as part of an effort to enable the planned reduction in bed space at MCI-Concord did not result in an increased rate of recidivism.
- (4) Fewer individuals who were paroled from correctional institutions in Massachusetts in the year 1972 were found to be returned to prison for the single reason of a technical violation of parole rules. A possible explanation for this trend is that the effects of the Morrissey vs. Brewer decision are now being felt in Massachusetts criminal justice system.
- (5) Analysis revealed that for individuals originally committed to MCI-Walpole recidivism rates varied according to the specific institution from which they were released. Walpole commitments who were transferred to and released from lower security institutions had significantly lower rates of recidivism than those released directly from a maximum security institution. It is suggested that the above finding lends support to the possibility of a reintegrative or rehabilitative quality in the movement from maximum to medium and/or to minimum security levels as opposed to an abrupt release directly from a maximum security institution.
- (6) For all releasing institutions, individuals who received a parole had significantly higher rates of recidivism

than individuals who had received a discharge. One clear reason why it would be expected for individuals receiving a discharge would have lower rates of recidivism is that such individuals would not be returned for parole violations since they are not on parole status. Dischargees may only be returned for reason of receiving a new sentence on a new offense.

AN ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENTIAL RATES OF RECIDIVISM
FOR MCI-WALPOLE COMMITMENTS BY INSTITUTION
OF RELEASE, MAY 1976
JOSEPH LANDOLFI

The primary goal of this study is to evaluate the rehabilitative quality of Massachusetts medium and minimum security institutions using recidivism as the gauge for measuring the impact of the program. Specifically this study was designed to analyze the occurrence of differential rates of recidivism for MCI-Walpole commitments by their specific institution of release. The sample populations consisted of 1971 releasees.

The evaluation resulted in two significant findings. First, it was determined that evidence did not exist in support of the contention that low recidivist risks were in fact chosen for transfer to the programs. Secondly, even when controlling for a possible selection bias analyses revealed that there was indeed a rehabilitative quality in the movement from maximum to medium and minimum security levels in the Massachusetts Department of Correction.

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM RATES AMONG RESIDENTS
RELEASED FROM MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
DURING THE YEAR 1973
OCTOBER 1976 DANIEL P. LECLAIR

The present study consists of an analysis of rates of recidivism for individuals released from Massachusetts' State Correctional Institutions. The particular population upon which the analysis was conducted consisted of all such releases in the year 1973.

Several striking findings emerged from the study that we believe have wide range theoretical and, more importantly, administrative policy implications.

First, it is clear that a consistent reduction in recidivistic behavior is occurring in Massachusetts. For releases in the year 1966, the mean rate of recidivism was 30%; for 1971, it was 25%; for 1972, 22%; and for 1973, 19%. This trend, however, is not peculiar to the state of Massachusetts. For example, Martinson and Wilks (October, 1976) have recently presented evidence that the same trend is occurring nationally.

Secondly, the study firmly demonstrates that participation in the Furlough Program is the most important variable in accounting for the reduction of recidivism rates that has occurred in Massachusetts. When the selection factor was controlled for, the relationship held as strongly.

Thirdly, the study found that participation in pre-release programs prior to reintroduction to community life, led to the lowest rate of recidivism.

Fourthly, related to the finding discussed above, analyses revealed that individuals released from prison directly from medium or minimum security institutions (which includes pre-release centers) had significantly lower rates of recidivism than did those individuals released directly from a maximum security institution. This finding, also documented in previous Departmental recidivism studies, suggest a reintegrative or rehabilitative quality in the movement from maximum to medium to minimum security levels, as opposed to an abrupt release directly from a maximum security institution.

The above findings provide striking support for the recently enacted community-based correctional network of programs in Massachusetts: Pre-Release Centers, Halfway Houses, Work and Education Release Programs, Co-Educational Institutions, and most importantly, the Furlough Program.

Two other aspects of the present study include: (1) comparative recidivism figures for both a one and a two year follow-up period; and (2) a profile of high and low recidivism risk potentials derived from a series of personal background and criminal history variables on each member of the population.

The profile portion of the analysis revealed a further important finding. It was found that the category criminal career pattern was the strongest indicator of high/low recidivism risk potential. Those individuals found to be deeply embedded in a criminal career consistently had the highest rates of recidivism. This finding is important in relation to the newly emerging interest in career criminal programming.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

AN EVALUATION OF THE NORFOLK FELLOWSHIP
JUNE 1975 TOM CANNON

The Norfolk Fellowship is based at Massachusetts Correctional Institution-Norfolk, a medium security facility for adult male offenders. The Fellowship programs bring together, in small groups prisoners and volunteers from the community in an attempt to create an atmosphere of fellowship. These programs operate in the institution and in the community providing a unique opportunity for continuity of participation both before and after release.

This study focuses on three major areas of concern: recidivism, differential treatment effects and financial benefits. In terms of recidivism, the Fellowship is a positive correctional program, effectively reducing recidivism for program regulars. In terms of differential treatment effects, the program is most successful with the following groups: blacks, those married or previously married, those with prior military service, those 30 or older at present incarceration, and parolees. The financial benefits were substantial, being \$262,240 over a four year period.

A PROFILE OF VIETNAM ERA VETERANS INCARCERATED
IN MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
JULY 1976 JOSEPH LANDOLFI
AND DANIEL LECLAIR

In response to a number of requests for information on veterans incarcerated in Massachusetts Department of Correction facilities, particularly Vietnam era veterans, the research unit of the DOC prepared a preliminary series of statistical reports concerning this aspect of the population.

Upon inspection of the Correction/Parole Information System Data Base, it was determined that as of September 1975, approximately 11% or 222 individuals of the total MCI population were Vietnam era Veterans. In addition to presenting frequency distributions on background and criminal history variables, this evaluation will make a statistical comparison between incarcerated veterans and non-veterans on those variables.

This evaluation concluded that there was a significant proportion of Vietnam era veterans incarcerated in Massachusetts Correctional Institutions. Generally this population exhibited a less active criminal history background than the non-veteran and represented a fairly stable group of individuals with a relatively high rehabilitative potential.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MAJOR VIOLATORS IN MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER, 1976

Ellen Chayet

As national attention is increasingly focusing on career criminals (the recidivistic and more serious offenders), Massachusetts is one of the few states to have both prosecution and correction oriented programs to deal with this offender type. To enable correctional administrators to plan treatment programs for individuals convicted as such by the District Attorney, a typology of the career criminal, or Major Violator, needed to be developed. This study represents the first step in that task.

Two groups were selected for study. The treatment group (N=112) consisted of all Major Violators convicted by Suffolk Superior Court since program inception. The control (N=155) was culled from all commitments from that court to the institution receiving Major Violators doing the same time period. Comparisons between the two groups were made to ascertain differentiating factors. Major differences were found to exist; a total of ten variables yielded significance using the Chi Square test. Among these: Major Violators were more likely to have received a longer sentence, to have been younger, both at the current incarceration and when arrested for the first time, have been arrested more times previously for committing person offenses and for property offenses, to have appeared in court more often, to be committed for an armed robbery. These findings were consistent with the theoretical conceptualization of the career criminal, and have pragmatic implications for correctional treatment planning.

Future studies will elaborate upon these findings by utilizing diverse control groups.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

The following statistical reports are prepared yearly by the Department of Correction and are available for the years 1974 and 1975:

Yearly Statistical Report of the Furlough Program: Faye Farrington

The number of individuals furloughed monthly in proportion to the total population for each correctional facility, as well as total number of furloughs, number of escapes, and escape rates for each year.

A Description of the Residents of the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions: Robert Patrician, Tom Cannon

This report describes the background, criminal history and commitment information of the population of each correctional facility at the beginning of each year (reports for January 1, 1975 and January 1, 1976 are available).

A Description of Court Commitments to the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions: Robert Patrician

An overview of court commitments to MCI-Walpole, Concord and Framingham is presented in this report, including data on commitments, criminal history, and background.

A Description of Releasees from the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions: Robert Patrician

The tables in this report describe the individuals released from each Massachusetts correctional facility into the community in terms of commitment, release, criminal history, and background data.

Yearly Statistical Report of the Community Rehabilitation System: Chris Mackey, Paul Gilpin

Data in this report include population movement to and from pre-release centers and halfway houses, program data, and post-release data for community-based correctional facilities in Massachusetts.

Population Movement Report for the Years 1974 and 1975:
Robert Patrician

Inmate population movement within Massachusetts correctional institutions is presented in this report, including numbers of admissions and releases of various types, the effect of changes in the volume of movements on the size of the institutional population, and numbers of transfers within the system.

Commitments and Releases to Jails and Houses of Correction
for the Years 1974 and 1975: Paul Gilpin

This report presents numbers of admissions to Massachusetts jails and Houses of Correction (by reason of commitment) as well as numbers of individuals released from these facilities into the community (by specific category of release).

Place of Massachusetts in National Crime Rate Statistics 1974 and 1975;
Nelson Cochrane

Massachusetts is rank ordered with other states in this report to determine its crime rate for murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft.



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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH
1977

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University of Massachusetts

Prepared by:

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Program Evaluation Analyst

Massachusetts Department of Correction

Frank A. Hall
Commissioner

January, 1978.

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Approved by: Alfred C. Holland, State Purchasing Agent

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INTRODUCTION

This report is intended as a supplement to a previous publication, "Massachusetts Department of Correction Review of Current Research, 1975-1976." The abstracts included here represent the research conducted by the Department during 1977 and the complete reports are available upon request from:

Research Unit
Mass. Department of Correction
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202

The first section of this document focuses on one of the major evaluative goals of the Department of Correction Research Unit: the analysis of recidivism rates of individuals released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions. The abstract included in that section discusses those residents released during 1974 and is based on a one year follow-up from the time of release for each individual.

The second section of this report deals with the evaluation of those programs established under Chapter 777, the Correctional Reform Act. These programs, such as furloughs, pre-release centers, and halfway houses are concerned with the reintegration of the offender back into the community through gradual release from the institutions. Abstracts presented here include an evaluation of the Roxbury Rehabilitation Center, the effects of the home furlough program; an evaluation of the Concord Achievement Rehabilitation Volunteer Experience (part of the State Hospital Program between MCI-Concord and the Walter E. Fernald State School) and an overview of the coeducational correctional experience at MCI Framingham.

The abstract presented in the Prediction Studies section summarizes a report specifically written in response to numerous requests for an explanation of the methodology used in many Research Unit reports. In an effort to control for possible selection bias in a particular sample, the Department of Correction's Research Unit has used Base Expectancy Prediction Tables instead of the more commonly used method of random allocation. This report explains the theory behind the development of these tables as well as illustrating their use by specific examples.

Special studies researched during 1977 include evaluations of the pre-release training experience, the implementation of supported work programs and a study of a special community based classification board within each of the four major correctional facilities (MCI-Walpole, MCI-Concord, MCI-Norfolk and MCI-Framingham).

The final section of this report provides a complete listing and brief description of each of the statistical reports published annually by the Department of Correction that are now available for 1976.

OVERALL RECIDIVISM STUDIES

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM RATES AMONG RESIDENTS RELEASED
FROM MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING
THE YEAR 1974

September 1977

Daniel P. LeClair

The present study contains an analysis of differential recidivism rates for individuals released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during the year 1974. Incorporated in the analysis is a series of comparisons between the finding of the 1974 releases and previous findings from the analysis of releasee populations in the years 1966, 1971, 1972 and 1973.

Our analysis revealed that many of the basic trends isolated in previous recidivism studies by the Department of Correction continue to occur. For example, it is clear that in recent years rates of recidivism have dropped for releases from Massachusetts State Correctional Institutions. For releases in the year 1966, the mean rate of recidivism was 30%; for 1971, it was 25%; for 1972, 22%; for 1973, 19%; and for 1974, 19%. Since the rates for 1973 and 1974 are the same, evidence of a possible leveling off of the downward trend exists.

A second major finding of our analysis was that strong evidence exists which demonstrates that Furlough Program participation, is an important variable in accounting for the reduction in recidivism that has occurred in Massachusetts over the past few years. For individuals who have received furloughs prior to release from prison, a significantly lower rate of recidivism occurs. Our analysis indicated that this reduction in recidivism is due to the impact of the Furlough Program and not to the types of inmates who were selected for furloughs. This finding also occurred in the analysis of the releasee chart for the year 1973.

A third major finding was that the security level of the institution from which an individual is released has a bearing on the chances that the individual will recidivate. Individuals released from minimum security institutions and pre-release centers have a significantly lower probability of recidivating than do individuals released directly from maximum and medium security institutions. Individuals released directly from maximum security institutions have the highest probability of recidivating. Again, our analysis revealed that this recidivism

differential held even after we controlled for selection factors.

A fourth major finding, documented in research studies on prior releasee populations, was that a shift has occurred concerning the proportion of recidivists in the various categories of return. Specifically, a lower proportion of recidivists are being returned for a technical violation of parole conditions. Instead, the category of return is more likely to be for reason of a new arrest or for receiving a new commitment from the courts. We attribute the decrease in the number of parole revocations for reason of a technical infraction of parole rules to the implementation of the Morrissey Vs Brewer decision. This trend must be taken into account as also having an impact on the rates of recidivism for recent years.

Analysis concludes that the drop in rates of recidivism that has recently occurred for releasees from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions is attributable in the interactive effects of three events. These events are: (1) the introduction of the Furlough Program; (2) the introduction of graduated release programs (pre-release centers, half-way houses, work release programs, and education-release programs); and (3) the implementation of the Morrissey Vs Brewer decision in the parole revocation process.

REINTEGRATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

ROXBURY COMMUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER: A PROFILE OF
PARTICIPANTS AND A RECIDIVISM FOLLOW-UP
MARCH 1977 JOSEPH LANDOLFI

The present analysis consists of an evaluation of the Roxbury Community Rehabilitation Center (CRC), a private organization operated by the Roxbury Multi-Service Center. The CRC was designated a community-based pre-release center by the Massachusetts Department of Correction in January, 1974.

The present study was designed with the purpose of answering the following research questions:

1. What variables distinguish between individuals who complete and individuals who do not complete their assignments to the CRC pre-release program?
2. Are those inmates who ended their terms of incarceration in the CRC less likely to be reincarcerated within one year of their release than are similar types of inmates who did not participate in the pre-release program?

The evaluation resulted in two findings. First, of the 90 individuals who participated in the pre-release program since the inception of the program through December 1975, 51 (57%) successfully terminated from the facility. The remaining 39 (43%) were either returned to the various Massachusetts Correctional Institutions or declared escapees. A statistical comparison of commitment, personal history background characteristics and criminal history background characteristics yielded thirteen (13) variables that produced statistically significant differences between the two completion samples. This analysis resulted in a profile based on the above mentioned variables of a typical CRC program non-completer.

Secondly, even after controlling for a possible selection bias it was determined that individuals who had completed the CRC program exhibited a lower rate of recidivism than similar types of individuals who did not participate in the pre-release program. The difference, however, between the two rates was not statistically significant.

A STUDY IN A COEDUCATIONAL CORRECTIONAL
FACILITY: DIFFERENTIAL EFFECTS OF
PSYCHOTHERAPY AND OTHER PROGRAMS
1977

This study of MCI-Framingham was divided into four general areas for investigation: a recidivism follow-up, including an analysis of background characteristics and recidivism; an analysis of the effect of selected programs on recidivism; an analysis of data collected by conducting inmate and staff interviews; and, an analysis of differential effects of selected programs on recidivism. A focus of this study was on the Division of Legal Medicine Counseling Program at MCI-Framingham.

Recidivism Follow-up

Overall, the Framingham experience had a significant impact in reducing recidivism for the 255 men and women who were followed up for one year subsequent to their release to the community. The actual recidivism rate for these individuals (16.5%) was significantly lower than their expected recidivism rate (28.2%), which was derived from base expectancy categories. The impact on recidivism tended to be greater for women, who had an expected recidivism rate of 32.0% and an actual recidivism rate of 17.1%, than it was for men, who had an expected rate of 19.7% and an actual rate of 14.9%.

The Framingham experience seemed to have the greatest impact, in terms of recidivism reduction, on men and women who were traditionally considered to be the highest recidivism risks...i.e., men and women who were young and who had a history of drug involvement and court appearances.

Program Analysis

Using the same sample, our investigation of furlough work release, education release, and DLM counseling programs indicated that furlough and work release programs seemed to have a positive impact on inmates in terms of recidivism reduction. No conclusions could be determined about the education release program because of the small number of participants. Recidivism rates were higher for participants in the DLM counseling program than they were for non-participants.

Differential Effects of Treatment Programs

This section analyzed the different effects of three treatment programs, furlough, work release, and DLM counseling on the

different types of inmates who participated.

Our analysis of the furlough program revealed that participation in furlough program was associated with significantly lower recidivism rates. The inmates who seemed to benefit most from this program were older, white, from non-urban areas, with a higher level of education and with extensive criminal histories. Most of these characteristics were generally associated with a higher socio-economic background.

As in the furlough program, participation in the work release program was shown to relate positively to lower recidivism rates. The inmates who seemed to benefit most from work release were older, less educated, from urban areas, with less stable work histories and more previous adult incarcerations. Some of these characteristics are associated with a lower socio-economic background which is in direct contrast with the findings for the furlough program.

Overall, participation in the DLM counseling program was found to be associated with higher recidivism rates. Also, no one type of offender was found to have benefited significantly from participation in DLM counseling. A major finding for this section was that younger inmates and inmates with a lower level of education who participated in the DLM counseling program were found to have significantly higher recidivism rates than their counterparts who were non-participants.

Inmate and Staff Interview Data

Interviews on furlough, work release, education release and DLM counseling programs were conducted with 40 inmates and 31 staff. Most staff and inmates had positive feelings about furlough and work release programs, but were concerned about the screening process for acceptance into these programs.

A relatively large number of both inmates and staff expressed a lack of knowledge about the education release program.

In general, staff feel much more positively about DLM counseling program than the inmates did. Trust and confidentiality were issues of concern for inmates. Both staff and inmates felt there was some pressure on inmates to participate in counseling.

Nancy Brandon

Ros Gurtler

Barbara Carson

Barbara Lipps

Steve Disenhof

Sally Menkel

Amy Eden

Lexie Williams

Francis J. Carney, Jr. Ph.D., (Thesis Advisor)

April, 1977

THE CONCORD ACHIEVEMENT REHABILITATION
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: AN EVALUATION

August 1977

Faye Farrington &
Shari Wittenberg

One aspect of Massachusetts' approach to Community reintegration of the offender is the State Hospital Program whereby inmates are released from the institution during the day to work in state hospitals. One such program is the Concord Achievement Rehabilitation Volunteer Experience (C.A.R.V.E.), which has been in existence since 1968. The purpose of the present study was to determine whether participants in the C.A.R.V.E. Program were less likely to be reincarcerated within 1 year after release than other releasees who had not participated in the program. Analysis revealed that the Recidivism Rate of C.A.R.V.E. participants (18%) was much lower than would have been expected (33%). Their Recidivism Rate was also lower than that of the General Releasee population of MCI-Concord (28%). A comparison of program completers versus non-completers showed a disproportionately high number of program completers who reported to have a skilled position before being incarcerated. This was the only statistically significant difference found between the two sub-samples. It was concluded that the C.A.R.V.E. Program was a positive rehabilitative experience for residents at MCI-Concord.

THE EFFECT OF THE HOME FURLOUGH
PROGRAM ON RATES OF RECIDIVISM
(Submitted for Publication)

December 1977

Daniel P. LeClair

In an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the furlough program as a correctional device, an analysis of rates of recidivism for individuals released from Massachusetts' state correctional institutions in the years 1973 and 1974 was conducted. The following research question was addressed: are inmates who experience one or more furloughs during the term of their incarceration less likely to be reincarcerated within one year of their eventual release from prison than are similar types of inmates who do not participate in the furlough program during the period of their incarceration? Selection factors were controlled via the use of Base Expectancy Tables. Analysis of the data indicated that the participation in the Home Furlough Program led to a significant reduction in recidivism rates. The data were interpreted as providing preliminary evidence that the use of furlough programs during the period of incarceration provides a positive reintegrative function. It was concluded that programmatic contributions to the process of societal reintegration can be effective devices for reducing the repeated criminal behavior of the prison releasee.

PREDICTION STUDIES



DEVELOPMENT OF BASE EXPECTANCY PREDICTION
TABLES FOR TREATMENT AND CONTROL GROUPS
IN CORRECTIONAL RESEARCH

August 1977

Daniel P. LeClair

When dealing with the problem of possible selection bias in a sample, the Research Unit of the Massachusetts Department of Correction has traditionally used Base Expectancy Prediction Tables as an alternative to random allocation. This instrument was developed as a device through which an estimation is made of the varying degrees to which individuals in a given sample (usually a prison population) or subsample (such as a particular treatment group) are at risk of recidivating after being released into the community. Individuals are placed into risk groups based on statistical comparison with a separate population not receiving the specified treatment whose recidivism rates are already known. An Expected Outcome Rate is then calculated for the treatment group which is later compared with the Actual Outcome Rate.

The present report is a detailed explanation of both the theoretical and methodological aspects of developing these Base Expectancy Tables. To illustrate the method, an example was taken from an already published research study comparing the rehabilitative effects of two pre-release centers (Boston State Pre-Release and Shirley Pre-Release). Thus, after an explanation of the Base Expectancy Tables, this paper actually applies the table to these two pre-release centers by developing expected recidivism rates. This report was specifically written in response to the numerous requests received by the Research Unit for the specific methods used in developing Base Expectancy Tables.

SPECIAL STUDIES

IMPACT EVALUATION - VOLUME I
THE EXPERIENCE OF PRE-RELEASE TRAINING
MAY 1977 ELLEN CHAYET

Pre-release training is a component of a multi-faceted strategy (funded by the "Impact" grant) aimed at broadening and complementing programs for commitments to MCI-Concord. The program's objective was to reduce the high non-completion rate of these men at pre-release facilities. Eight training cycles were conducted at MCI-Shirley, a pre-release center, during the funding period. The goal of these workshops was to facilitate the potentially difficult transition from maximum security to pre-release status by dealing with areas directly concerning adjustment to community reintegration.

A total of 104 men participated; of these, 96 graduated, for a cycle completion rate of 92.3 percent. These graduates were compared to a control group of Concord commitments who were released directly to a community facility during the same time period as pre-release training occurred. Each group's inter-institutional movement was tracked for ten months subsequent to transfer to pre-release, which allowed for determination of program non-completion rates. Using the definition of a non-completer as anyone returned to a higher security level or declared escaped-at-large, we found that 32 of the 77 workshop graduates who were terminated from pre-release fit these criteria, for a non-completion rate of 41.6 percent. When compared to pre-release clients who did not receive any intervention, however, this rate was significantly higher (the program non-completion rate for clients transferred directly to pre-release was 16.9 percent). When actual Concord commitments were isolated from the sample that received training, the same relationship was found. Cycle graduates originally committed to Concord failed to complete pre-release at a rate of 40.0 percent, compared to 16.9 percent of the control group. Another finding highlighted a pattern demonstrated by pre-release training clients to continue as pre-release residents for prolonged periods of time.

The study concludes that although the pre-release training concept does not have a positive impact on community-based program non-completion rates, further study may be necessary. Issues such as the possibility of the existence of a selection bias in choosing high risk candidates for participation and the disproportionate number of cycle graduates still remaining at their placements as of ten months were cited. A strategy for addressing these questions by future research is outlined.

IMPACT EVALUATION - VOLUME II
SUPPORTED WORK: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A
TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT ENTERPRISE

September 1977

Ellen Chayet

As a portion of a comprehensive evaluation of the program components of the Special Impact - Corrections grant (June, 1975 to May, 1976), the implementation of Supported Work during that year was studied. Based on a model developed by the Vera Institute in New York, supported work was conceptualized as a transitional employment enterprise, designed to equip the marginally employable offender or ex-offender with the skills and attitudes requisite for employment in the community. The vehicle to achieve this was the operation of self-supporting business ventures, which served the dual purpose of training clients and actually enabling them to work for wages. The effort was subcontracted on a "purchase of slots" basis, slated primarily for residents of a community-based facility and parolees. This study concerns the experience of program participation of Supported Work clients who were referred via the Impact mechanism.

Four enterprises served as training sites for correctional clients. The endeavors provided experience in either paint deleading, building repair and maintenance, or graphic arts. A total of 53 individuals participated. Of those who terminated from the program in some manner (36), eight (22.2 percent) were positive terminations (resulting from finding another job or pursuing education); 17 (47.2 percent) were negative terminations (the employee was fired, rearrested, or returned to higher custody); and eleven (30.6 percent) were neutral terminations (individuals who moved, or who resigned due to health factors, or dissatisfaction with the program).

Clients were found to be registered as program participants for a relatively short time; 41.7 percent were employed for one month or less, whereas 25 percent remained for five months or longer. Given the number and length of suspensions evidenced, however (36.1 percent had been suspended at least once), length of program participation was readjusted to reflect these periods. The result indicated that actually, 47.2 percent of all terminated clients had actively participated in Supported Work for one month or less. Even when all clients were included in these calculations, over thirty percent were program participants for this period of time. Individuals employed for longer than five months constituted only 35.9 percent of the sample.

Implications of the findings in terms of program objectives were discussed. In view of the few number of individuals serviced, the rate of negative terminations from the program, and the short length of actual participation (as compared to concept parameters, which specified six months to one year as necessary to attain maximum program benefit), no definitive conclusions are drawn regarding either short-term or long-range program impact.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH
1975 - 1976
MAY 1977 SHARI WITTENBERG

This document represents a collection of abstracts of research studies conducted by the Department of Correction during 1975 and 1976. The reports abstracted include program evaluations, recidivism studies, special projects, and annual statistical reports, and are available upon request from the Department.

A STUDY OF THE COMMUNITY BASED CLASSIFICATION BOARDS,
OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1976 PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

September 1977

Shari Wittenberg

A special Community-Based Classification Board was in operation from October to December 1976 for the purpose of reviewing inmates who were eligible to be transferred to a community-based correctional program from each of the four major correctional facilities (MCI-Walpole, MCI-Concord, MCI-Norfolk, and MCI-Bridgewater). A total of 321 individuals were reviewed by the Board during this three month period and were either recommended to the Commissioner for transfer to a lower security facility (46.1% of the sample) or were denied by the Board or by the Commissioner's office for transfer at that time (53.9% of the sample).

A high proportion (88.5%) of the 148 individuals approved for placement were in fact, placed into community based facilities, and those individuals had a success rate of 71.0%. Of the 173 individuals rejected for transfer to a lower security facility, 113 (65.3%) were actually transferred to a community based facility during the six month follow-up period. Their success rate was 77.0%, which was even higher than for those actually approved for placement. For the entire sample, therefore, the failure rate was only 22.1%, reflecting 54 failures out of 244 individuals reclassified to lower security facilities. Since previous research in Massachusetts pre-release facilities have shown failure rates to range between 30% and 50%, it was concluded that the Community Based Classification Board was successful in placing individuals into community based facilities during that period.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS



ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

The following statistical reports are prepared yearly by the Department of Correction and are now available for 1976:

Yearly Statistical Report of the Community Rehabilitation System:
John Saia

Data in this report include population movement to and from pre-release centers and halfway houses, program data, and post-release data for community-based correctional facilities in Massachusetts.

Statistical Tables Describing the Background Characteristics and Recidivism Rates of Releases from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions in the year 1974
Division of Research

This report presents statistical tables on the 911 individuals released from the Massachusetts State Correctional Institutions during 1974. The tables contain two types of information: 1) statistical data describing the characteristics of individuals released from each Massachusetts Correctional Institution in 1974; and 2) the rates of recidivism for these individuals cross-tabulated according to the categories of the statistical data.

A Description of the Residents of the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions on January 1, 1977
Charles Metzler

The tables presented in this report describe the characteristics of the inmates in each Massachusetts Correctional Institution on January 1, 1977. The information, which is broken down by institution, includes background characteristics, present offense, criminal history, and furlough participation.

A Description of Releasees from the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions During 1976
Charles Metzler

The present report is a description of the characteristics of the inmates released into the community from the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during 1976. It contains information on personal background characteristics, present offense, criminal history, and furlough participation.

Population Movement in the Massachusetts Department of Correction During 1976
Charles Metzler

Inmate population movement during 1976 is presented in this report. The information included represents numbers of admissions and releases of various types, the effect of changes in the volume of movements on the size of the institutional population, and numbers of transfers within the system.

A Statistical Description of Court Commitments to the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions During 1976 Charles Metzler

The tables in this report contain a statistical description of court commitments during 1976 to MCI-Walpole, Concord, and Framingham in terms of personal background characteristics, present offense, and criminal history characteristics.

A Statistical Description of Commitments to Mass. Houses of Correction During 1976 Charles Metzler

This report contains a brief description of commitments to the Massachusetts County Facilities (houses of correction) during 1976 including present offense, sentence, month committed, age at incarceration, sex, and marital status.

1976 Yearly Statistical Report of the Furlough Program Charles Metzler

A brief overview of the Massachusetts furlough program is contained in this report as well as comparisons of furlough characteristics over the past four years. Frequency distributions presented include personal background characteristics, present offense and criminal history variables for the year 1976.

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH 1978

GOVERNMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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January, 1979

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Approved by Alfred C. Holland, State Purchasing Agent



INTRODUCTION

This document is the third in a series of annual reports describing research studies conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Correction. The evaluations abstracted in this report were carried out by the Department's Research Division during 1978 and may be obtained by writing to:

Research Unit
Massachusetts Department of Correction
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202

This report is divided into five sections, reflecting various concerns of the Department of Correction during the past year. The area of recidivism remains one of the major interests of the Department, as indicated in the first section. Abstracts included here reflect overall recidivism rates for all Massachusetts Correctional Institutions for the years 1975 and 1976, as well as the recidivism rates of residents released from MCI-Bridgewater during the period 1971-1975.

The next two sections reflect an organizational change in the Research Unit during the past year. The staff was reorganized to concentrate on two major areas of analysis: program evaluation and operational research. The program evaluation component deals with analyses of programs geared toward the reintegration of individuals back into the community such as pre-release or work release. Abstracts include an analysis of the effects of work release at MCI-Concord, a comparison of completion/non-completion rates for releasees from pre-release facilities, and an assessment of the relationship between recidivism rates and the graduated societal reintegration experience within the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions.

Operational research studies differ from program evaluations in that they provide statistical descriptions or trend analyses of programs or specific populations, but do not necessarily evaluate them in terms of recidivism or program completion. Studies represented in this report include a trend analysis of commitment patterns to Houses of Correction, a trend analysis of youthful offenders committed to Massachusetts Correctional Institutions, a statistical report of the furlough program, and an explanation of the development of a validated base expectancy table. Finally, seven annual statistical reports are now available and a brief description of each of these is presented at the end of this section.



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Special reports published by the Research Unit during 1978 include a study of the reception and diagnostic process of the Department, an overview of mandatory sentencing in terms of background information and important issues and an evaluation of the New Line Classification System (an initial intake for court commitments to MCI-Concord). These abstracts are presented in the final section of this report.

OVERALL RECIDIVISM STUDIES

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG RESIDENTS RELEASED FROM
MCI-BRIDGEWATER DURING 1971-1975

April, 1978

Linda Druker

To assess the success and failure rates of its correctional institutions, the Massachusetts Department of Correction has been using recidivism statistics as one measure of effectiveness. Although the Department of Correction has conducted extensive recidivism analyses for all state correctional facilities, MCI Bridgewater was consistently excluded from that research, particularly due to small sample size from that institution. The purpose of the present study is to supply the necessary recidivism data for MCI Bridgewater in order to complete the relevant recidivism research for the years 1971-1975. Overall recidivism rates for releasees from Massachusetts correctional institutions were found to decrease from 1971 to 1973, level off in 1974, and increase slightly in 1975, although the increase was not statistically significant.

An analysis was conducted on the 162 individuals who were released from MCI Bridgewater into the community during the five year period of 1971-1975. The overall recidivism rate for that period was calculated to be 27%. When compared with the overall recidivism rates for all state correctional institutions during the same period, it was concluded that the inclusion of MCI Bridgewater in recidivism analyses neither raises nor diminishes the total rates of recidivism for all state institutions.

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM RATES AMONG
RESIDENTS RELEASED FROM MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL
INSTITUTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1975

July, 1978

Randi Mershon

The following study presents an analysis of differential recidivism rates for individuals released from Massachusetts correctional institutions in the year 1975. Included within the analysis is a comparison between the findings of the 1975 releasees and the findings of the years 1966, 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974.

The present analysis supports many of the basic findings that have emerged in past research studies by the Department of Correction. One trend that has persisted is the occurrence of lower recidivism rates in recent years. For releases in 1966, the mean recidivism rate was 30%. For 1971 it was 25%; for 1972, 22%; for 1973, it was 19%; for 1974, 19% and 20% for 1975. Since the recidivism rates for 1973, 1974 and 1975 are consistent, it is possible that a levelling off of the downward trend exists.

Another trend previously identified and supported by the present analysis was that participation in the furlough program significantly reduces the incidence of recidivism. The analysis revealed that the reduction in recidivism is directly caused by the furlough program and not by a selection bias in choosing inmates for participation in the program. This finding is consistent with the results of the recidivism studies for 1973 and 1974.

Moreover, as pointed out in past research studies, the security level of the institution from which an individual is released is directly related to the incidence of recidivism. As the security level of the institution decreases, so does the probability of recidivistic behavior. Therefore, individuals released from maximum and medium security institutions have a higher chance of recidivating than do releasees from minimum security institutions and pre-release centers. After controlling for selection biases, we again find that the recidivism differential held true.

Also consistent with past recidivism research is the fact that a lower proportion of recidivists are being returned for a technical violation of parole conditions and instead are being returned for reason of a new arrest or a new court commitment. A possible explanation for this may be the implementation of the Morrissey vs. Brewer decision. This trend also emerges in its effect upon recidivism rates in recent years.



AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM RATES..1975 (continued)

July, 1978

Randi Mershon

In sum, the present analysis substantiates previously published research findings which had attributed the reduction in rates of recidivism to the interactive effects of three events: (1) the inception of the furlough program; (2) the introduction of graduated release program (i.e., pre-release centers, half-way houses, work-release programs, and education-release programs); and finally, (3) the implementation of the Morrissey vs. Brewer decision in the parole revocation process.

AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM RATES AMONG
RESIDENTS RELEASED FROM MASSACHUSETTS
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN 1976

December, 1978

Randi Mershon

This study presents an analysis of recidivism rates for individuals released from Massachusetts correctional institutions in the year 1976.

Consistent with past departmental recidivism research, the recidivism rate in 1976 showed a downward trend. For release in 1966, the mean recidivism rate was 30%. For the years 1971 through 1975 the rates were 25%, 22%, 19%, 19% and 20%, respectively. In 1976, the recidivism rate dropped to 16%.

This report attributes the reduction in recidivism rates to three factors: 1) participation in the Home Furlough Program; 2) release from a pre-release center; and 3) the combined effect of the two programs.

More specifically, controlling for selection biases, the results of this study substantiate prior evidence that individuals who had participated in the Furlough Program prior to release had lower rates of recidivism, as did individuals released from a pre-release center. Moreover, those individuals having experienced both the Furlough Program and a Pre-Release Center had the lowest recidivism rate. Therefore, the existence of graduated release programs again emerges as the most significant contributing factor in the reduction of recidivism rates.

REINTEGRATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

WORK RELEASE IN AN INSTITUTIONAL SETTING: THE EXPERIENCE
AT MCI CONCORD

June, 1978

Shari Wittenberg

As part of its emphasis on the reintegration of the offender into society, the Massachusetts Department of Correction has expanded its work release programs which allow residents to work in the community while serving their sentence. The purpose of the present research was to evaluate the rehabilitative effectiveness of a work release program in an institutional setting (MCI Concord). Base Expectancy rates were calculated for a sample of 109 individuals who are identified as successful work release completers in an effort to assess whether successful completion of the work release program while incarcerated would significantly reduce the recidivism rates of participants after their release into the community. Since the difference between the recidivism rate that was expected for work release completers (32%) and their actual recidivism rate (19%) was found to be statistically significant, it was concluded that the successful completion of the work release program did favorably affect the reintegration of the offender into the community by reducing recidivism rates. A differential recidivism analysis of this work release sample revealed that participants who had experienced fewer court appearances and who had spent less time incarcerated were less likely to recidivate after release into the community.

A sample of 196 individuals who had participated in the work release program while at MCI-Concord were divided into work release completers and work release non-completers for the purposes of identifying any specific characteristics that distinguished one sub-sample from the other. A multivariate analysis revealed seven variables that differed between work release completers and non-completers, particularly concerning employment history and previous arrests. These variables were used for a profile of work release non-completers that could be valuable in future selection criteria.

COMPLETION/NON-COMPLETION RATES FOR
RELEASES FROM DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
PRE-RELEASE CENTERS, 1975-1976

July, 1978

Joseph Landolfi

Recognizing the valuable rehabilitative potential of community resources, the Massachusetts Department of Correction has implemented an extensive network of community based correctional facilities, entitled, The Community Reintegration System (CRS). The purpose of the present research was to document and analyze 1975 and 1976 CRS individual program termination data.

Several interesting findings resulted from the research. First, 817 individuals participated in and terminated from the various centers in 1976, an increase over the previous year of approximately 44%. Secondly, notwithstanding the large increase in pre-release participants, the overall CRS successful completion rate went up from 60% in 1975 to 62% in 1976. Finally, the majority of individual pre-release centers reported an increase in the number of successful terminations during the year 1976.

SOCIETAL REINTEGRATION AND RECIDIVISM RATES

August, 1978

Daniel LeClair

The present research examines the hypothesis that prison releasees who experience graduated societal reintegration by participating in pre-release centers and the furlough program, will have lower recidivism rates than those releasees who have not received the benefits of such programs. A sample of 3244 males released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions from 1973 through 1976 was drawn for purposes of this analysis.

Preliminary analysis revealed that individuals who are released through a pre-release center to the community have significantly lower recidivism rates than those individuals who are released directly from a correctional institution. Further analysis demonstrated that the greatest reduction in recidivism within this group occurred for those individuals receiving both furloughs and pre-release placements. In this case an expected recidivism rate of 22.2% reduced to an actual recidivism rate of 9%. The difference was found to be statistically significant ($\chi^2=74.87, df=1, p < .001$).

It was concluded that participation in graduated reintegration programs will reduce the probability that an individual will recidivate upon release from prison, and that the furlough program is a critical element in the reintegration process.

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH STUDIES



PATTERNS IN COMMITMENTS TO
MASSACHUSETTS HOUSES OF CORRECTION
A TREND ANALYSIS

June, 1978

Charles Metzler

This report identifies trends in commitments to Massachusetts houses of correction (county facilities) for the years 1932 to 1976. In overall commitment totals, the trend was strongly downward, from a high in 1934 of 16,298 to a low of 2,903 during 1974. The age at commitment has also shifted over this period with more commitments at younger ages in recent years than in the past. Moreover, the proportional distribution in offense categories has recently shifted with the highest percentage in property and drug offenses instead of in "other" offenses. Finally, a significant trend now occurs in the sentence distributions with commitments receiving longer sentences and fewer commitments in lieu of fines.



YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS COMMITTED TO MASS.
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS - A TREND ANALYSIS

July, 1978

Elaine McCarthy &
Randi Mershon

The present study is an attempt to isolate trends of youthful offenders committed to Massachusetts Correctional Institutions. The study is divided into two sections: Part I will place particular emphasis upon short-term trends of offenders aged 14-21, with additional focus upon trends in the total population and the over 21 population as a basis for comparison; Part II will be concerned with long-term trends in the commitment of offenders 20 years old and younger.

Part I utilizes a population index in order to isolate the trend and minimize the distorting influence of atypical population changes, whereas Part II makes use of time series analysis and statistical trend tests.

The short-range analysis resulted in three major findings. First, there is a definite progressively upward trend for offenders of all ages in the short run. Secondly, the trend is more severe and pronounced for individuals 14 to 21 than for the other groups. Thirdly, 1973 appears to be an atypical year for those in the 14 to 21 years group and the over 21 years group with an abnormally inflated and deflated trend, respectively.

The long-range analysis showed that there has been a downward trend in the commitment of offenders 20 and younger. Secondly, although the proportion of youthful offenders is lower now than in the past, there appears to be an upward trend in recent years.

1977 YEARLY STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE FURLOUGH PROGRAM

December, 1978

Charles Metzler

The furlough program has been an integral part of the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions since the program began in November, 1972. A total of 41,563 furloughs were granted between the inception of the program and December 31, 1977. During that period, 439 of those furloughs resulted in escapes (a resident failing to return to his correctional facility within two hours of his designated time) thus yielding an overall escape rate of 1.06%. The present report contains a statistical description of the furlough program for the year 1977 as well as a trend analysis of the program since its inception in 1972.

An analysis of available statistics revealed that although the number of furloughs granted over the years has fluctuated, the escape rate has decreased from 1.9% in 1972 to 0.5% in 1977, remaining relatively stable during the last two years of that time period. It was also noted during that period that the number of furloughs granted from lower security pre-release centers increased, as less furloughs were granted from higher security correctional institutions. Finally, this report presents frequencies and escape rates of background characteristics for each furlough granted during 1977. Information included in these tables consists of present offense variables, personal background characteristics, criminal history statistics, and furlough variables.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF VALIDATED BASE EXPECTANCY TABLES

December, 1978

Charles Metzler &
Shari Wittenberg

The use of Base Expectancy Tables is an important factor in correctional research, especially when evaluating the effectiveness of a particular treatment program. Therefore, it is important to understand the construction, application and implications of such predictive devices.

The present paper explains the process of constructing a Base Expectancy Table using the sample of 1975 releasees from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions as a data base. Two tables were produced as a result: one based on information known when an individual is released to the street (Post-Incarceration Table) and one including information known when an individual is first committed to prison (Pre-Incarceration Table).

When these tables were applied to the 1976 releasee population, both the Pre-Incarceration Table and the Post-Incarceration Table validated. These tables will be used as controls in future research done by the Massachusetts Department of Correction.



ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

The following statistical reports are prepared yearly by the Department of Correction and are now available:

Statistical Tables Describing the Background characteristics and Recidivism Rates of Releases from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions in the Year 1975, Charles Metzler

This report is a statistical description of characteristics of the 806 residents released to the street from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during 1975 with corresponding recidivism rates. The tables included in this report contain statistical data describing the characteristics of inmates released from each MCI in 1975, as well as the rates of recidivism cross-tabulated with each of the categories of the statistical data for these individuals.

A Statistical Description of Commitments to Massachusetts Houses of Correction During 1973 Through 1975, Charles Metzler

The data contained in this report represents a brief description of commitments to Massachusetts Houses of Correction (county facilities) for 1973, 1974 and 1975. Variables included in this report give information regarding present offense, sentence, month committed, age at incarceration, sex and marital status for each resident.

Population Movements in the Massachusetts Department of Correction During 1977, Charles Metzler

The information in this report is a description of admissions releases and transfers within the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during the year 1977. The data is broken down into several specific categories including: type of admission, type of release, institutional transfers, returns from hospitals, releases to hospitals, transfers from houses of correction, returns of Department of Correction inmates from houses of correction, transfers to houses of correction on a from and after sentence, admissions from out of state and releases to out of state.

Statistical Tables Describing the Background Characteristics and Recidivism Rates of Releases from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions in the Year 1976, Charles Metzler

The tables in this document reflect statistical data describing the characteristics of inmates released from each Massachusetts Correctional Institution in 1976 as well as the rates of recidivism cross-tabulated with each of the categories of the statistical data for these individuals. Characteristics described here include institution release variables, history of present offense variables, personal background characteristics,



criminal history variables, furlough variables and release follow-up variables for each of the 925 individuals (815 men and 110 women) released from MCI's during 1976.

A Statistical Description of Court Commitments to the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions During 1977, Charles Metzler

This report is a statistical description of characteristics of court commitments to the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1977. There were 1145 individuals committed to Massachusetts Correctional Institutions during that year. The tables in this document present information on the history of the present offense, personal background characteristics, and criminal history of admissions from the courts to MCI-Walpole, MCI-Concord and MCI-Framingham.

A Statistical Description of Releases from the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions During 1977, Charles Metzler

The data presented in this report represents information concerning the 1193 individuals released from the Massachusetts Department of Correction to the streets during 1977. The tables contain information on present offense variables, personal background characteristics, criminal history variables, furlough participation, and release variables for each of these releasees. This document is broken down into two sections where each of the aforementioned variables is presented for: 1) all non-pre-release institutions, and then for 2) all pre-release facilities within the Massachusetts Correctional system.

A Statistical Description of Residents of the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions on January 1, 1978, Charles Metzler

This point-in-time profile of residents contains information on the 2750 residents who were incarcerated in Massachusetts Correctional Institutions on January 1, 1978. The statistical descriptions included in this report are broken down by institutions and are divided into two sections: non-pre-release institutions, and pre-release facilities. The specific variables discussed in this report include personal background characteristics, present offense variables, criminal history variables, and variables reflecting participation in the furlough program.



SPECIAL REPORTS



A STUDY OF THE RECEPTION AND DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

April, 1978

This is a study of the reception and diagnostic process of the Massachusetts Department of Correction. It includes an analysis of the flow of individuals through the Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC) and the Northeast Reception and Diagnostic Center (NRDC), including their placement six months after their initial classification; a comparison of those who were formally classified at the RDC or NRDC with those who were not formally classified at these facilities, including an assessment of the impact of the initial classification on the subsequent movement through the correctional system; an analysis of the security levels of the initial placements made by the RDC and NRDC, including the significant variables associated with placement in maximum, medium, or minimum security facilities; and, an examination of the success rates of placements in minimum security facilities, along with an analysis of the variables that distinguished between successful and non-successful placements. The sample consisted of the 1199 men sentenced to Walpole or Concord during 1976.

Flow of Individuals Through the Correctional System

The majority of the 1199 men sentenced directly to the Department of Correction during 1976 (83%) went through the formal classification process at the RDC or the NRDC. The RDC was effective in diverting men from maximum security inasmuch as 55% of the RDC placements were to medium security facilities and 16% were directly to minimum security facilities. Diversion from maximum security was less apparent at the NRDC primarily because Concord was defined as maximum security in this study. However, it is noteworthy that 34% of the NRDC placements were directly to minimum security facilities.

There was a fairly substantial degree of movement through the correctional system. Six months after the initial placement, only 30% of the RDC cases and 31% of the NRDC cases were in maximum security, and 20% of the RDC cases and 61% of the NRDC cases were either in minimum security or had been paroled. Classification at the RDC or NRDC tended to facilitate movement through the correctional system since fewer than a third of those initially classified at the RDC or NRDC were in maximum security after six months, while slightly over half of the non-classified individuals were still in maximum security after six months.



The median length of time between commitment to the DOC and initial placement by the RDC/NRDC was eleven weeks (9.5 weeks for the RDC and 13.4 weeks for the NRDC).

Comparison of Classified vs. Non-Classified Men

Walpole commitments who were not initially classified at the RDC or NRDC were likely to have more serious criminal histories--as consistently reflected by significant differences on six criminal history variables--than those who were initially classified at the RDC. Concord commitments who were not initially classified at the NRDC or the RDC were likely to have shorter sentences and to be older than those who were initially classified at the NRDC.

Background Variables and Initial Placement

For the most part, the significant relationship between background variables and the security level of the initial placement were not unexpected. For example, men with longer sentences and more serious criminal histories were more likely to be placed in maximum security, while men with shorter sentences and less serious criminal histories were more likely to be placed in minimum security. However, the finding that blacks and Boston residents were over-represented in RDC maximum security placements was not expected and further study of this phenomenon was recommended.

Success Rates of Minimum Security Placements

In general, the RDC and NRDC seem to do an effective job of screening and placing men in minimum security facilities, since the overall success rate was 87%. This finding, in conjunction with the results of other research which indicates that those released from minimum security facilities have significantly lower recidivism rates, suggests that it would be both feasible and productive for the DOC to assign more men to minimum security facilities.

Significant differences on success rates were found on three interrelated variables--age (younger men had higher success rates), type of sentence (those with indeterminate sentences had higher success rates), and facility of initial classification (those initially classified at the NRDC had higher success rates). Further analysis to determine whether age or facility of initial classification



was more important in relation to success rates was inconclusive. However, it is clear that the NRDC is particularly effective in placing younger men in minimum security facilities.

Finally, it was concluded that the RDC and the NRDC could probably increase the number of younger men placed in minimum security facilities without adverse effects. Younger men were significantly underrepresented among the minimum security placements of the RDC and the NRDC, yet they had significantly higher success rates than older men.

Also, the data suggested that the RDC could probably increase the number of blacks placed in minimum security facilities. Blacks were significantly underrepresented among RDC minimum security placements, yet race was not associated with success rates. However, further research into the relationship between race and such factors as offense, length of sentence, and seriousness of criminal history would be required before this could be presented as a firm conclusion.

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH
1977

January, 1978

Shari Wittenberg

This collection of abstracts represents research carried out by the Department of Correction Research Division during 1977. The reports abstracted in this document encompass a variety of topics: the first section deals with recidivism, a major evaluative theme of the Research Unit; the second section contains reintegrative program evaluations such as furloughs and state hospital programs. The next two sections deal with prediction studies and special studies, and the final section provides a complete listing of the statistical reports published annually. Complete reports are available upon request from the Department of Correction.



MANDATORY SENTENCING: AN OVERVIEW

September, 1978

Shari Wittenberg

This report was prepared in response to numerous requests from the public concerning background information on mandatory sentencing, a topic which is a current issue in Massachusetts as well as in many other states in this country. This document begins with an overview of the problem of sentence disparity in our criminal justice system and discusses possible solutions to the problem such as various forms of presumptive and mandatory sentencing as they have been proposed in recent literature.

Some issues that need to be considered in proposing revisions for sentencing standards are as follows: probation, plea bargaining, parole, good time, sentencing councils, appellate review of sentences, effects on correctional facilities, and sentencing legislation. These issues are briefly discussed and examples of sentencing legislation are presented for those states who have already adopted forms of mandatory sentencing: Maine, California, Indiana, and Illinois.

It should be noted that this report represents an overview of the problem of mandatory sentencing as it is documented in relevant literature, and does not reflect the opinion or policy of the Massachusetts Department of Correction.



IMPACT EVALUATION-VOLUME III NEW LINE
CLASSIFICATION DURING ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION

May, 1978

Ellen Chayet

The New Line is an intake classification capability designed for court commitments to the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Concord, a facility at that time housing the younger, relative newcomer to adult crime. Operationalized with LEAA discretionary funding from June, 1975 through May, 1976, the New Line was formulated in response to two salient and disturbing trends in Concord's population; one, that the facility was simply becoming increasingly overcrowded; and two, there was disproportionately high rate of population turnover. Both observations implied that appropriate custody assessment and sound treatment planning would be difficult to effect.

In this context, New Line goals were to both conduct an intake classification assessment that was thorough and efficient, and would divert as many men as possible from residency at Concord; and to consolidate and utilize the varied institutional programs for offenders not suitable for transfer. A rate of ten percent diversion was projected as minimal by program planners.

This evaluation focuses on two areas: a description of the classification operations during its first year of funding; and an analysis and profile of the men diverted from the facility.

Client intake commenced in June, 1975; through the end of May, 1976, a total of 377 individuals were screened. Of these 265 men (70.3%) were classified by New Line, with the remainder referred to more appropriate capabilities. On the average, the classification process lasted 12.5 weeks. If the individual was to be diverted, he remained at the New Line for just over two weeks. The staff recommended diversion was a bit lower (104 individuals for a rate of 39.2%). Nearly seventy percent of these men who were diverted from maximum custody were transferred to a minimum security placement, community-based facility, or directly paroled.

The client profile yielded some interesting distinguishing characteristics of men diverted as compared to those designated to remain at Concord. Among these findings were that individuals who were transferred from the facility were significantly more likely to have been older when committed, to have been older when first arrested, to have evidenced a longer employment history, and to have been better educated. They were less likely to have been booked on a sex-related charge, to have previously been arrested, to have ever been arrested for a sex or property crime, and to have ever been incarcerated as an adult.



IMPACT EVALUATION VOLUME III...(continued)

May, 1978

Ellen Chayet

The study concludes that New Line met many of its original goals by sustaining a high rate of diversion, including a large percentage placed in lower custody or community-based facilities. Further, analysis of the client profile indicated that placement decisions appear to have been appropriate. The New Line activities seem to be consistent with a reintegrative philosophy of corrections, and a concern for individualized treatment needs.



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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH, 1979

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
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University of Massachusetts
Depository Copy

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents a review of current research conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Correction, Research Unit during 1979. Included in this report are abstracts which summarize specific findings of the individual studies cited.

This year's report is divided into three sections which reflect the different emphases integrated within the Research Unit. The first section contains abstracts geared toward community reintegration, a major focus of the unit. Abstracts include: overall recidivism rates of 1977 releasee population, a fact sheet on the furlough program, a follow-up evaluation of the pre-release training experience, a look at inmates released directly from a maximum security institution and some theoretical implications of positive research findings.

Section two contains four studies which evaluate the administrative management process of the Massachusetts Department of Correction for incoming offenders and newly trained correction officers. The studies include: an evaluation of the area board classification, a policy analysis report on the training academy for correction officers, a thesis submitted to the Boston University School for social work on sentencing and a study which analyzes the institutional experience of major violators in Massachusetts. In addition, a special study analyzes the trends in commitments to correctional institutions from the years 1935 to 1977.

The final portion of this report consists of eight annual, statistical reports which describe background characteristics of inmates committed to and released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions and Houses of Correction.



Copies of the complete studies may be obtained by writing to:

Research Unit
Massachusetts Department of Correction
100 Cambridge Street 21st Floor
Boston, MA 02202



SECTION I
OVERALL REINTEGRATIVE STUDIES

During the past year, a continued emphasis of the Research Unit has been to study the effectiveness of the state's correctional programs which were implemented in 1972 following the passage of the Correctional Reform Act. This act instituted various work and educational release programs, pre-release centers and the Home Furlough Program. Abstracts in this section deal with studies that test the effectiveness of these reintegrative programs on the incarcerated and present an analysis using recidivism rates as an outcome measure of effectiveness.



AN ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM RATES AMONG RESIDENTS
RELEASED FROM MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN 1977

NOVEMBER, 1979

YVETTE SMART

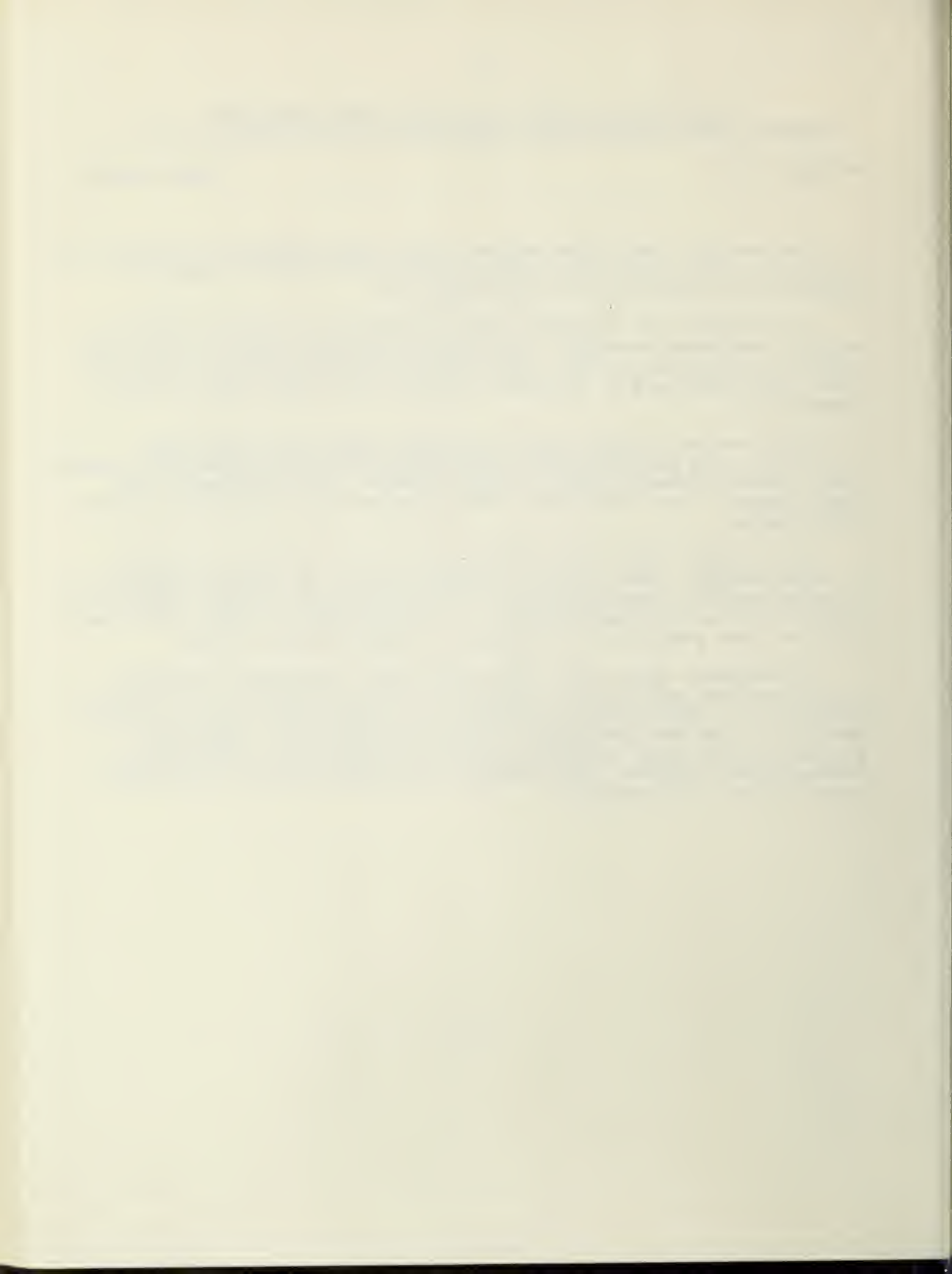
As one of a continuous series, this study presents an analysis of recidivism rates for individuals released from the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions in the year 1977.

Maintaining the downward trend documented in previous departmental recidivism research, the overall recidivism rate for the 1977 releasee population is 15%. For releases in the years 1971 through 1976, the rates were as follows: 25%, 22%, 19%, 19%, 20%, and 16% respectively.

The results of this study reaffirmed prior major findings. Individuals who participated in the Home Furlough Program and a graduated release process prior to their release (to the streets) had significantly lower recidivism rates compared with those who did not participate.

New results that have emerged in the 1977 analysis included:
1) significantly lower rates in recidivism for the Concord population;
2) total prior incarcerations as a distinguishing variable between recidivists and non-recidivists; 3) a significantly lower return rate for the black population of inmates as compared with whites.

In summary, this study along with prior recidivism research attributes the reduction in rates to three major factors: 1) participation in the Home Furlough Program; 2) release from a pre-release center; 3) the combined effect of the two programs. Therefore, we can conclude that graduated release programs along with various reintegrative efforts, are germane to the reduction in recidivism rates of the incarcerated.



INMATES RELEASED DIRECTLY FROM A MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTION
DURING 1977 AND 1978

NOVEMBER, 1979

LAWRENCE T. WILLIAM

Recent reports published by the Research Unit have shown the increased use of pre-release centers as evidenced by the increase in the number of inmates released from pre-release centers. However, there remains a significant number of individuals who are being released on parole or discharged directly from maximum security status at Walpole into the community. It would seem logical that if an individual is ready for parole, he should not be in Walpole still.

This paper examines the inmates released from a maximum security institution, MCI-Walpole, in 1977 and 1978. The sample for both years is divided to reflect and identify those individuals of the sample who spent all of their institutional life in Walpole as compared with those who had also been placed in medium security and those who had some exposure to a forestry camp or pre-release center.

The investigation resulted in several findings. Sixty-seven individuals or 56% of the population in 1977 and 70 individuals or 49% of the population in 1978 had spent all their institutional life at Walpole. Seventeen individuals or 15% of the population in 1977 and 33 individuals or 24% of the population in 1978 had been placed in a medium security institution during their incarceration. Thirty-five individuals or 29% of the population in 1977 and 39 individuals or 27% of the population in 1978 had some exposure to a forestry camp or pre-release center during their incarceration. The recidivism rate in 1977 for individuals who had some exposure to a forestry camp or pre-release center was 19% which is lower than the similar rates for the other sub-groups of the sample. The recidivism rate for these individuals in the 1977 sample who participated in the furlough program was 9% compared to 31% for those who did not participate. The number of individuals who participated in the furlough program decreased from 1977 to 1978. Individuals who were returned to Walpole from a medium security institution or a forestry camp or pre-release center had a recidivism rate of 14% if they spent six months or less in Walpole before their release. If they spent more than six months in Walpole the rate was 29%.

The study concludes that individuals released from a maximum security institution experiencing some exposure to reintegration programs have lower rates of recidivism than those not exposed to reintegration programs.



A FOLLOW-UP EVALUATION OF THE PRE-RELEASE
TRAINING EXPERIENCE (T.N.T.)

JUNE, 1979

S. WITTENBERG &
D.P. LECLAIR, Ph.D.

In an attempt to reduce the level of unsuccessful terminations from departmental pre-release centers, a pre-release training program was implemented whereby selected inmates deemed high risks for pre-release placement would participate in an intensive work-shop before being sent to a final pre-release destination. The purpose of the present study was to determine whether or not this program has any impact on reducing non-completion rates for program participants. The specific research questions addressed were as follows: (1) Are individuals assigned to participate in the program in fact at higher risk of non-completion than individuals transferred directly into pre-release? and (2) Does successful completion of the training program have any effect on reducing pre-release non-completion rates?

Analysis determined that there was no evidence that high risks of pre-release non-completion were selected for training, and that there was no evidence that the training reduces an individual's chance for pre-release completion. Some implications of these findings are discussed.



MASSACHUSETTS FURLOUGH PROGRAM
STATISTICAL FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY, 1979

RANDI MERSHON

The Home Furlough Program was first implemented in Massachusetts on November 6, 1972. Since then, the program has become an integral component of the Massachusetts Correctional System. The Research Unit of the Department of Correction has produced several statistical and evaluative studies on the Furlough Program since its inception. The following report presents a concise description of the most recent furlough statistics, as well as a listing of other available furlough information.

The report is divided into three sections. The first section gives an overview of pertinent furlough statistics both since the inception of the program and for 1978: the number of furlough granted; the number of individuals furloughed; escape rates; trends in furlough statistics; and the effect of furlough participation in recidivism rates.

Following the first section are two appendices. Appendix I consists of a series of tables based on the statistics presented in the first section. Appendix II contains a listing of other available departmental research studies on the furlough program.



COMMUNITY BASE REINTEGRATION: SOME THEORETICAL IMPLICATIONS
OF POSITIVE RESEARCH FINDINGS

NOVEMBER, 1979

D.P. LECLAIR, Ph.D.

The present study provides an overview of recidivism research conducted by the department over the last 10 years and attempts some theoretical interpretations of the data. The reduction in recidivism rates experienced in Massachusetts is attributed to the department's introduction and expansion of a reintegration model whereby inmates are gradually reintegrated into society through a process of increased increments of freedom. It is concluded that the model directly impacts the counterproductive influences of the prisonization process, thus becoming an effective device for reducing the repeated criminal behavior of the prison releasee. The study was prepared by Dr. Daniel P. LeClair, Deputy Director of Research and was previously read at the November, 1979 meetings of the American Society of Criminology meetings in Philadelphia.



SECTION II

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT STUDIES

The administrative and management technique utilized by the Department of Correction is an important process designed to efficiently and effectively maintain the operational functions of the department. This section evaluates and makes recommendations to the management of the Massachusetts' correctional system.



THE INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCE OF MAJOR VIOLATORS IN MASSACHUSETTS

APRIL, 1979

ELLEN CHAYET

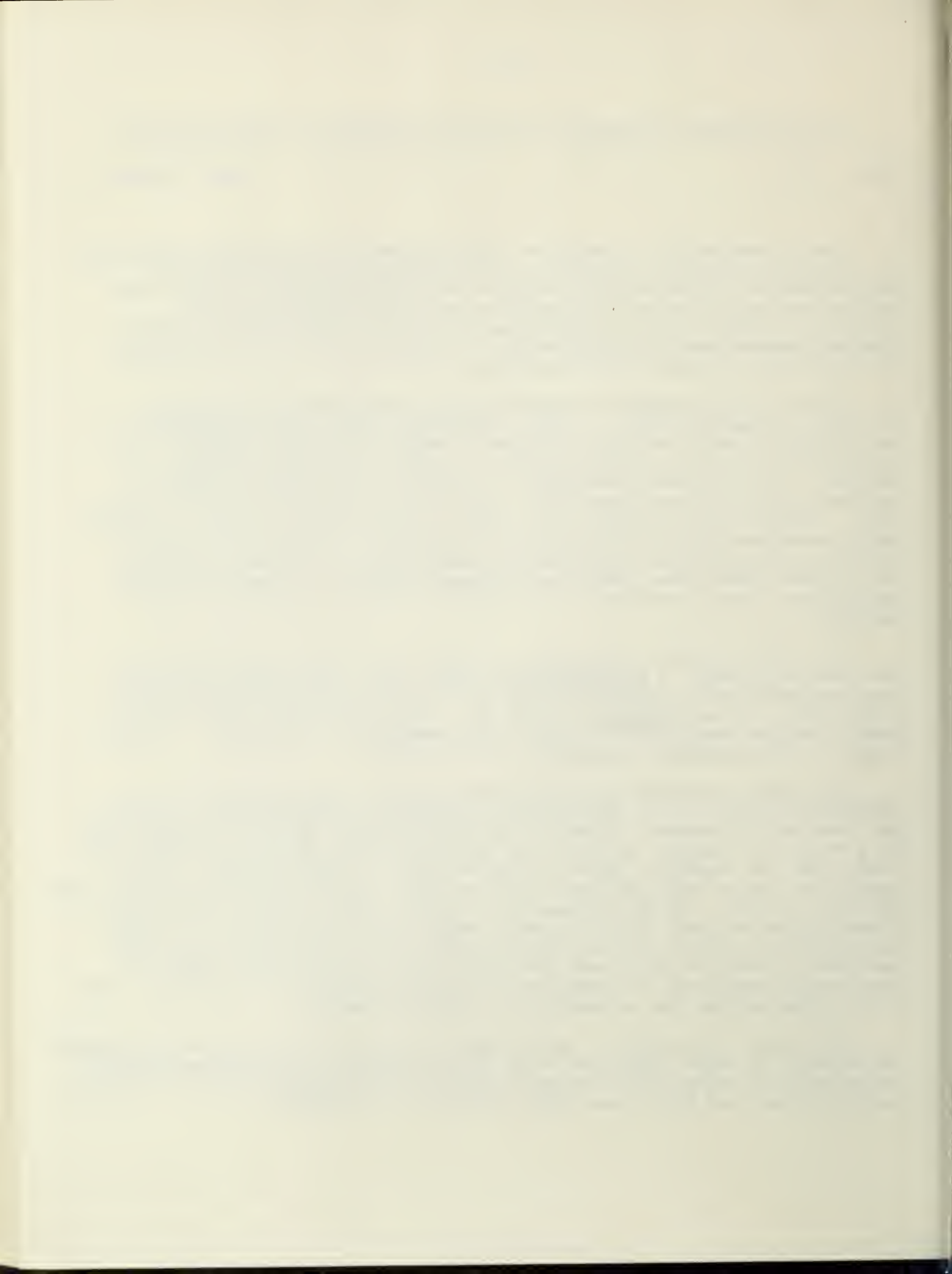
The attention of corrections administrators is becoming increasingly focused upon major violators, as the national scene witnesses a proliferation of prosecution programs which successfully convict and impose lengthy terms of incarceration upon this offender type. Corrections thus assumes the responsibility of determining if these inmates present special needs while in prison; and if so, to develop corresponding programs and strategies.

This study assesses the needs of the institutionalized Major Violator in Massachusetts. These individuals have been prosecuted by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Major Violators Division, and primarily sentenced to MCI-Walpole, the state's maximum security facility. The research continues to utilize the original cohort of inmates originally sentenced under this program between mid-1975 and 1976. Three research objectives sought to ascertain if major violators experience more difficulty than other inmates in adjusting to institutional life; whether programmatic needs appeared to be different; and whether this group could be differentiated on the basis of needs demonstrated upon commitment and during an initial period of incarceration.

The institutional experience of major violators was compared to two control groups: a contemporary control (men sentenced to Walpole from the same court during the period in which major violators were sentenced); and a historical group (men convicted during the previous year from the same court who were also sentenced to Walpole). A wide range of institutional variables was collected.

The most overwhelming finding was that for the majority of the variables, there was no significant difference between major violators and the control groups. Some of the distinctions obtained appeared to be a result of factors specific to the year during which the cohort was committed; for example, major violators and the contemporary control were more likely than the historical control to have received disciplinary reports, to have a drug problem, and to have spent time in isolation. Characteristics that did distinguish major violators from both groups tended to be related to the type of prosecution received; i.e., they were more likely to have been sentenced with pending court cases or outstanding warrants, to have longer minimum and maximum sentences, and to be incarcerated for a property or person offense.

The study concludes by reemphasizing the similarity of institutional experience of major violators with other inmates, and cautions against applying this potentially damaging label in the form of special programs until further and more long range research is conducted.



EVALUATION OF AREA BOARD CLASSIFICATION AT THE
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

APRIL, 1979

ELLEN CHAYET

Classification plays a prominent role in both the management of a correctional system, and in the maximization of the benefits of individualized program planning. This study is the first in a comprehensive series of reports concerning Area Board classification in the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC). These Boards are basically charged with periodically reviewing inmate status subsequent to the initial intake classification, to determine eligibility and suitability for inter-institutional transfers. Although unified in overall approach, each of the three DOC regions administers its own Boards for men housed within the Area's facilities.

The major objective is to describe the operation of the three Area Boards by developing an historical perspective; depicting the components of the process; providing a statistical summary of the numbers seen, types of recommendations made, and Central Office actions vis-a-vis these recommendations; and conducting a preliminary follow-up analysis to determine the outcome of these recommendations. The period under study was July, 1977 through January, 1978. The process and outcomes of all cases heard by Area Boards during this time was characterized with both qualitative and quantitative techniques employed for the research.

The Area Board system was instituted in mid 1976 following a general Department reorganization into three distinct regions. These Boards review cases that are referred by other sources (as institutional classification committees) and evaluate inmates' eligibility for transfer, and suitability for the various placement options. The final decision is incumbent upon the administrative level at the Central Office to supply final approval over the transfer. A variety of factors are weighed during the placement determination. Among these are statutory eligibility requirements, institutional behavior, and program availability.

Intensive interviews conducted with both line level and classification management staff yielded perceptions of the process as effective; but due to the double layered decision-making, not as efficient as the previous system. Training and increased communication were cited as important needs to be addressed.

The quantitative analysis utilized a base population of the approximately 1200 cases seen during the time parameter. Although limited data was gathered, several interesting findings emerged. Most Area Board recommendations (60.7 percent) were for lower custody. Central Office approved a majority of the recommendations (66.7 percent) but evidenced a more conservative orientation by approving more transfers to higher custody than the original recommendations. For example, approvals for maximum security constituted an increase of 28 percent over the original recommendations, and approvals for community-based programs represented a decrease of 23 percent over the Area Board determinations. However, actual Central Office approvals were generally



highest in the security level recommended by the Area Boards.

The length of the classification process was found to be greater than expected: a two-week median for Central Office to decide upon Area Boards recommendations; two weeks from the decision to a transfer; and a four to five week median time period overall for classification to be completed (from hearing to transfer).

The outcome analysis of Area Board recommendations demonstrated a fairly high degree of consistency between the security level of the original placement recommended by the Board, those approved by Central Office, and the actual placements following the hearings. These latter two were slightly more conservative than the original recommendations. Finally, examination of six-month placements evidenced a substantial degree of movement through the various security levels of the corrections system. A large proportion (36.5 percent) were residents of a community-based program or on parole.

No definite conclusions are offered, since little empirical support could be gleaned from the available data. The second study draws a sample of these cases and employs a more in-depth analysis utilizing additional variables. These include a continuous institutional movement tracking the rationales upon which decisions are premised, and incarceration experience data. Thus, questions regarding the bases for the decisions, and the accuracy of the placements, will be addressed. Implications of the present study did note the need for more training and communication, and an upgrading in the efficiency of the decision-making.



POLICY ANALYSIS REPORT ON TRAINING ACADEMY PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR
CORRECTION OFFICER RECRUITS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION*

JANUARY, 1979

CHARKHUFF ASSOCIATES

This independently contracted evaluation addresses six primary objectives concerning the recruitment, screening, selection, and training for correction officers. These are: 1) to describe the process; 2) to profile recruits throughout all stages of the process; 3) to identify the correlates of recruit attrition for these stages; 4) to describe the minority recruitment, selection, and training process; 5) to predict correction officer on-the-job performance from recruitment, selection, training, and background characteristics; and 6) to describe the impact of academy training.

The research began with initial inquiries regarding employment made to the academy during one year, and continued to refine the sample through the various stages from initial inquiry to actual on-the-job experience. Nearly 100 discrete variables were utilized resulting in a 450 page final report and executive summary. A variety of statistical techniques, ranging from simple frequency distributions to complex regression analyses, were performed in the study.

Among the over 100 findings and implications was the high rate of attrition prior to employment: six-sevenths of the original pool had either never worked or had terminated; the vast majority of these were self-initiated rather than academy initiated dropouts. The highest dropout rate is at the beginning of the process. Profiles of the retained versus dropped recruits indicated most distinguishing characteristics that were in the expected direction; some, however, were not, as in the association of minority status and prior experience in human services with attrition.

Minority recruitment efforts were found to be improved. Patterns of attrition for minorities and whites were found to be similar, although dropout rates were greater for minorities. This was more often a result of academy action, and associated with characteristics as age, education, size, sex, criminal record, employer ratings, prior work with other minorities, and training performance.

Attempts to predict correction officer on-the-job performance were partially thwarted by missing data and problems with responses to the outcome measure (performance evaluations). Supervisor ratings of officers exhibited a small range; actual officers were rated slightly higher than the hypothetical "adequate" officer. Sick leave increased with length of employment and was associated with attrition, but unrelated to performance. Significant variations were obtained in sick leave across the various institutions. Finally, correlations between various background, interpersonal, and training characteristics with performance were extremely low.

* This research was funded by the Committee on Criminal Justice Model Evaluation Program, and managed by the Research Division.



Supervisors rated newly trained recruits as at least as adequate as those trained in the past. Overall, recruits considered training at least somewhat valuable and helpful, and the trainers as displaying desirable qualities.

The study concludes by offering a series of recommendations that are premised upon a "model" training academy. They address the three goals of establishing functional training programs, developing a functional delivery system for the curriculum, and instituting a functional follow-up and monitoring system. In all, twenty-three pragmatic recommendations are presented.



A STUDY ON SENTENCING

MAY, 1979

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
THESIS

This research addressed two general areas related to sentencing:

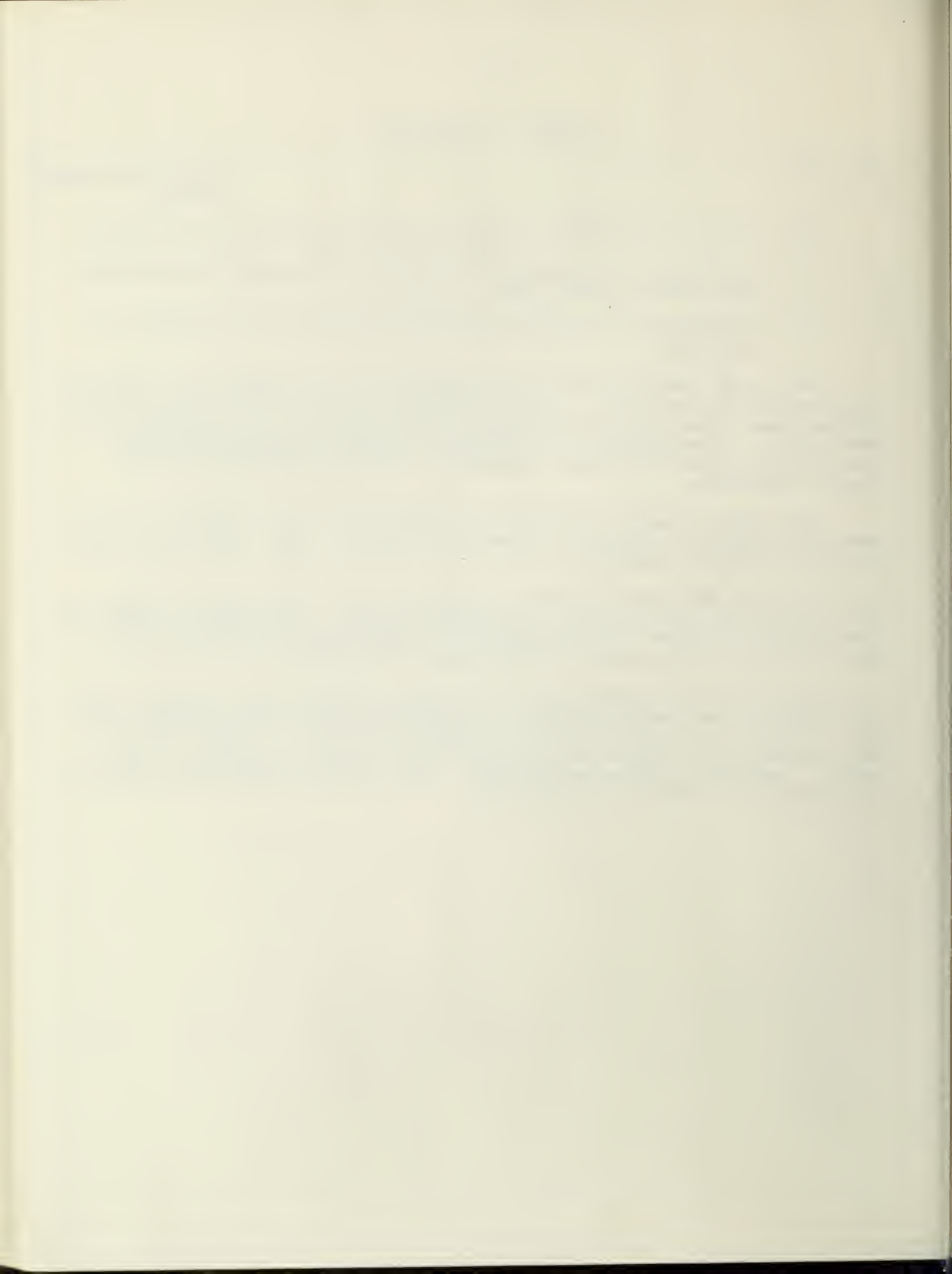
- (a) A survey of opinions and perceptions of sentencing practices and related issues; and,
- (b) An examination of the relationship between time served and recidivism.

The survey questionnaire was completed by 180 correctional administrators and supervisors. The sentencing model most frequently selected by respondents as most appropriate for Massachusetts was presumptive sentencing. Indeterminate and mandatory minimum sentencing models were also selected with some frequency. Flat-time sentencing was clearly rejected.

The survey results indicated that there was more agreement on the need for change in existing sentencing practices than there was on the direction for such change.

The most important variable affecting the relationship between time served and recidivism was criminal history. The results suggested that criminal history factors should be taken into consideration as aggravating or mitigating circumstances in sentencing.

All in all, the results of this study tended to be supportive of a presumptive sentencing model as an approach which would curtail, but not eliminate, discretion in the sentencing process. There was also some support for indeterminate sentencing, and to a somewhat lesser extent, mandatory minimum sentencing. The results indicated virtually no support for flat-time sentencing.



TRENDS IN COMMITMENTS TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
AN ANALYSIS FROM 1935 TO 1977

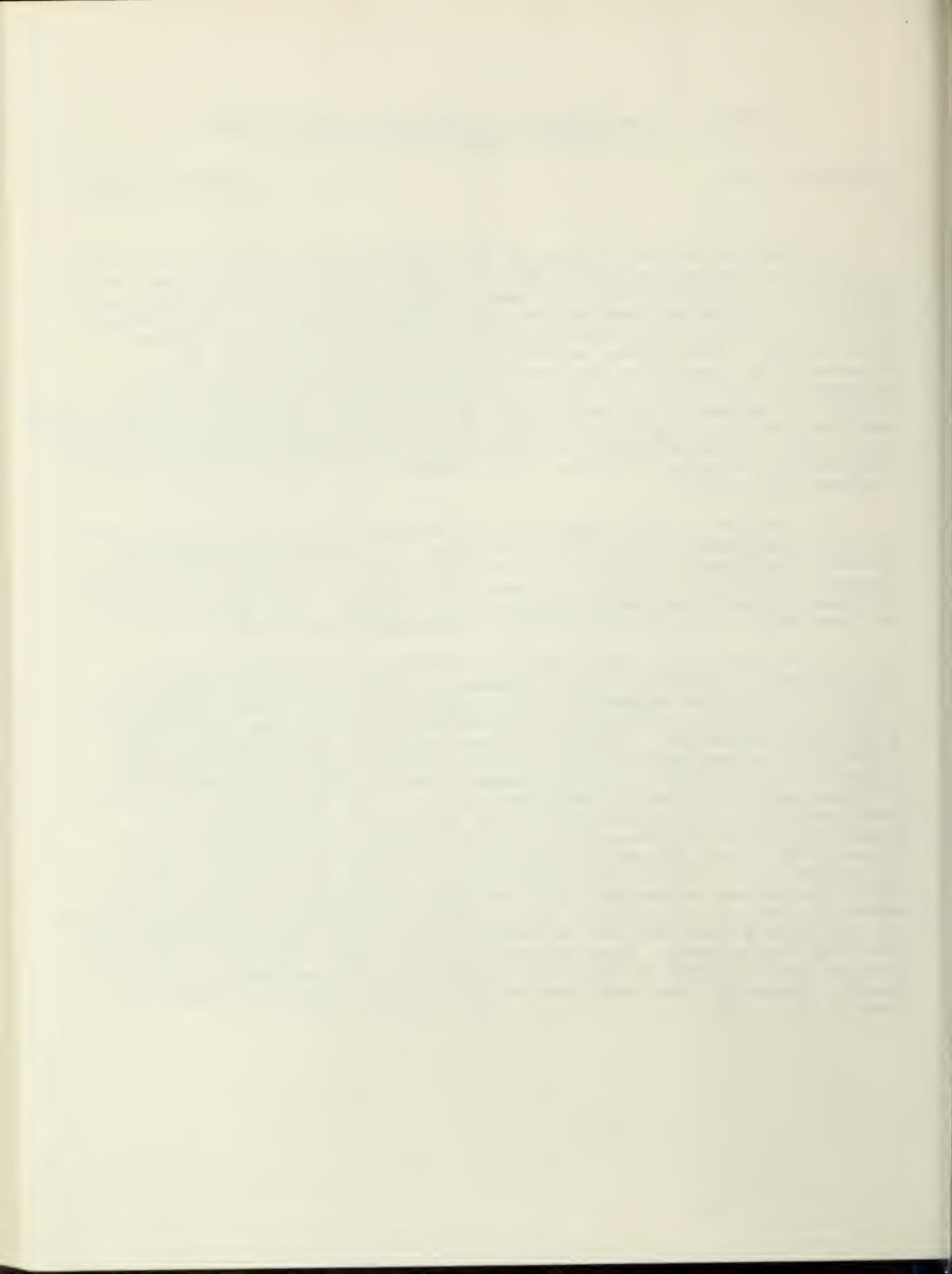
NOVEMBER, 1979

CHARLES METZLER

As a result of the passage of the Correctional Reform Act of 1972, the state of Massachusetts underwent a major change in its correctional policies. Included in this act were programs such as pre-release and furloughs. Other reforms such as the decriminalization of drunkenness and the deinstitutionalization of the juvenile correctional system were enacted. With these reforms a major responsibility of the Department of Correction has been to examine the effects of these programs and changes. Among the studies researched has been the continuation, expansion and refinement of the Annual Statistical Reports which describe the characteristics of our prison populations. However, little effort has been made which focuses on specific inmate population changes independent of program effects even though data has been consistently provided since 1935.

The purpose of this report was to isolate and analyze major trends in total commitment populations over time. Data which has been consistently collected for at least ten years, was chosen for analysis to discover discernible trends. These data elements include: total number of commitments, institution committed to, offense, sex, sentence, age at commitment, prior incarcerations, and educational level.

It was found that the number of commitments to Massachusetts correctional institutions has increased slightly over the years 1935 to 1977. While the number of males committed to the state prison and Concord Reformatory increased, the number of female commitments substantially decreased. For the offense variable, upward trends occur for all offenders convicted for offenses against the person and drug offenses. In addition, upward trends occur for women convicted for offenses against property and prostitution. For the sentence variable, men committed to the state prison and to Concord Reformatory are receiving longer sentences now than in the past, while females have a mixed trend. For the age at commitment variable, the trends differ in regard to the institution committed to. More men are committed to the state prison at younger ages now than in the past. The trend for women is similar. For the prior incarcerations variable male commitments to the state prison and the reformatory have fewer prior incarcerations now than in the past. Females have a mixed trend. Finally, there has been an upward trend in the educational level of commitments over the years. There are more commitments who are high school graduates now than in the past.



SECTION III
ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

The annual reports contain statistical descriptions of residents committed to Massachusetts correctional institutions, houses of correction, their various movements during time incarcerated, furloughs, releases and recidivism rates. The statistical tables in these reports were derived from data collected by the Data Processing Unit and were produced on the Massachusetts State College Computer Network. The following reports are prepared yearly and represent the population at M.C.I.'s.



A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF COMMITMENTS TO MASSACHUSETTS
HOUSES OF CORRECTION DURING 1978

CHARLES METZLER

Information in this report contains descriptions of commitments to Massachusetts houses of correction during 1978. Variables mentioned in the previous report are included here. However, the figures reflect those of the 1978 commitment population.

A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF COMMITMENTS TO MASSACHUSETTS
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING 1978

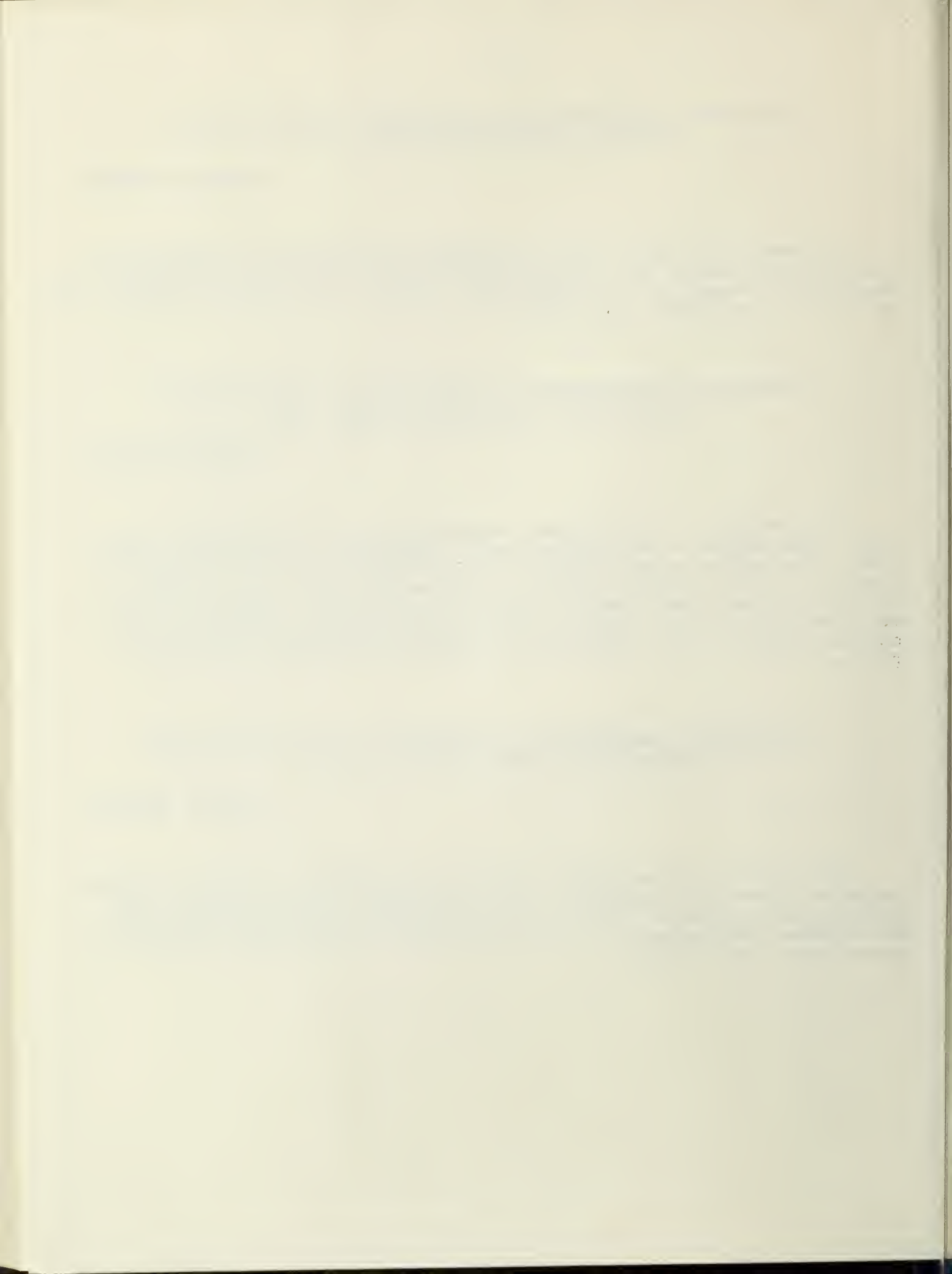
CHARLES METZLER

This report is a statistical description of characteristics of court commitments to the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1978. The tables in this report contain information on the nature of present offense, personal background characteristics, and criminal history of admissions from the courts to MCI-Walpole, MCI-Concord and MCI-Framingham. These tables were derived from the computerized data base developed by the Correction and Parole Management Information System.

A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF RESIDENTS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS ON 1/1/79

CHARLES METZLER

This point-in-time profile contains information on present offense variables, personal background characteristics, criminal history and furlough participation. The report is divided into a combination of pre-release institutions with non-pre-release institutions and specific pre-release institutions.



1978 YEARLY STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE FURLOUGH PROGRAM

CHARLES METZLER

The present report contains a statistical description of the furlough program for the year 1978 as well as a trend analysis of the program since its inception in 1972. An analysis of available statistics revealed that although the number of furloughs granted over the years has fluctuated, the escape rate has decreased from 1.9% in 1972 to 0.4% in 1978, remaining relatively stable during the last three years of the time period. Finally this report presents frequencies and escape rates of background characteristics for each furlough granted during 1978.

A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF RELEASES FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING 1978

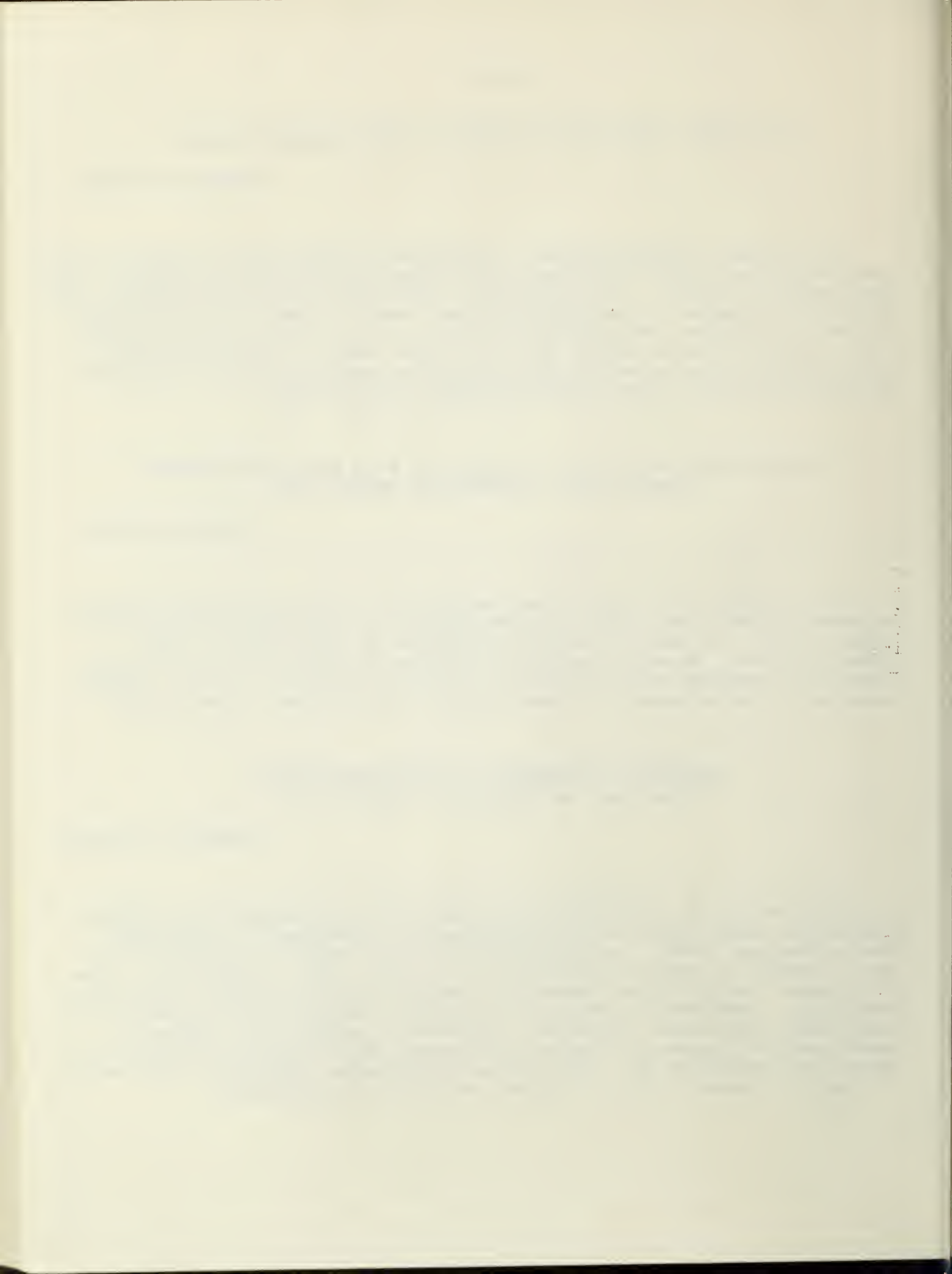
CHARLES METZLER

This report is a statistical description of the characteristics of releases to the street from the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1978. The tables contain information on the nature of the present offense, personal background characteristics, criminal history variables, furlough participation and release variables for all inmates released to the streets from Massachusetts correctional institutions.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS IN THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION DURING 1978

LAWRENCE WILLIAMS

This report is a description of admissions, releases and transfers within the institutions of the Massachusetts Department of Correction during the year 1978. The information in this report is broken down into a number of specific categories including: type of admission, type of release, institutional transfers, returns from hospitals, releases to hospitals, transfers of houses of correction inmates to Department of Correction facilities, transfers to houses of correction, returns of Department of Correction inmates from houses of correction, transfers to houses of correction on a from and after sentence, admissions from out of state, releases to out of state, and court of commitment.



STATISTICAL TABLES DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS
AND RECIDIVISM RATES OF RELEASES FROM MASSACHUSETTS
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING 1977

CHARLES METZLER

The following report is a statistical description of characteristics of inmates released to the street from Massachusetts correctional institutions during 1977 with corresponding recidivism rates. The statistics are available for men released from MCI's Walpole, Concord, Framingham, Norfolk, SECC (Southeastern Correctional Center), the three forestry camps (Plymouth, Warwick and Monroe), seven drug rehabilitation pre-release facilities (Hospitality House, Drug Addiction Rehabilitation Center, Meridian House, Center for Attitude Change, Boston VA Hospital, Third Nail, and Trio House), fourteen pre-release centers (Boston Offenders Service Project), 577 House, 699 House, Temporary Housing, Shirley, Boston State, Coolidge House, Brooke House, South Middlesex, Park Drive, Lancaster, Norfolk Pre-Release, Medfield, and Metac), and four other facilities (Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, RDC (Reception Diagnostic Center), Bridgewater State Hospital for the Criminally Insane and the Sexually Dangerous Persons Treatment Center). Statistics are also available for women released from MCI-Framingham and two pre-release centers (Charlotte House and Brooke House). A total of 1138 individuals (1007 males and 131 women) were released from the correctional institutions listed above. The follow-up period is for one year from the date of the individual's release to the community.

A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF COURT COMMITMENTS TO
MASSACHUSETTS HOUSES OF CORRECTION DURING 1977

CHARLES METZLER

The data contained in this report represents a brief description of commitments to Massachusetts Houses of Correction, which are county facilities during 1977. Variables included in the report give information regarding present offense, sentence, month committed, facility committed to, age at incarceration, sex and marital status for each resident.





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